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GREEN scene



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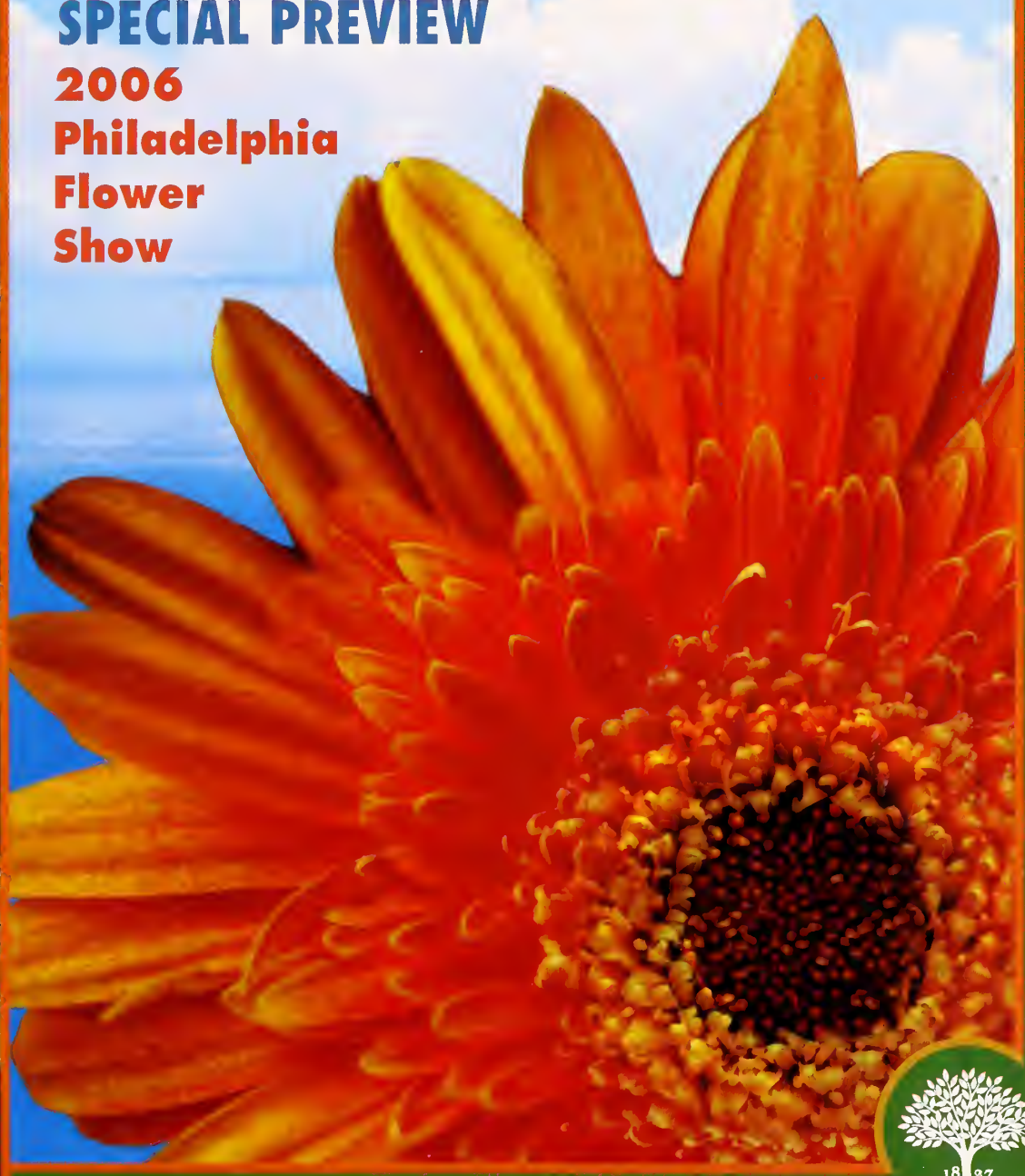


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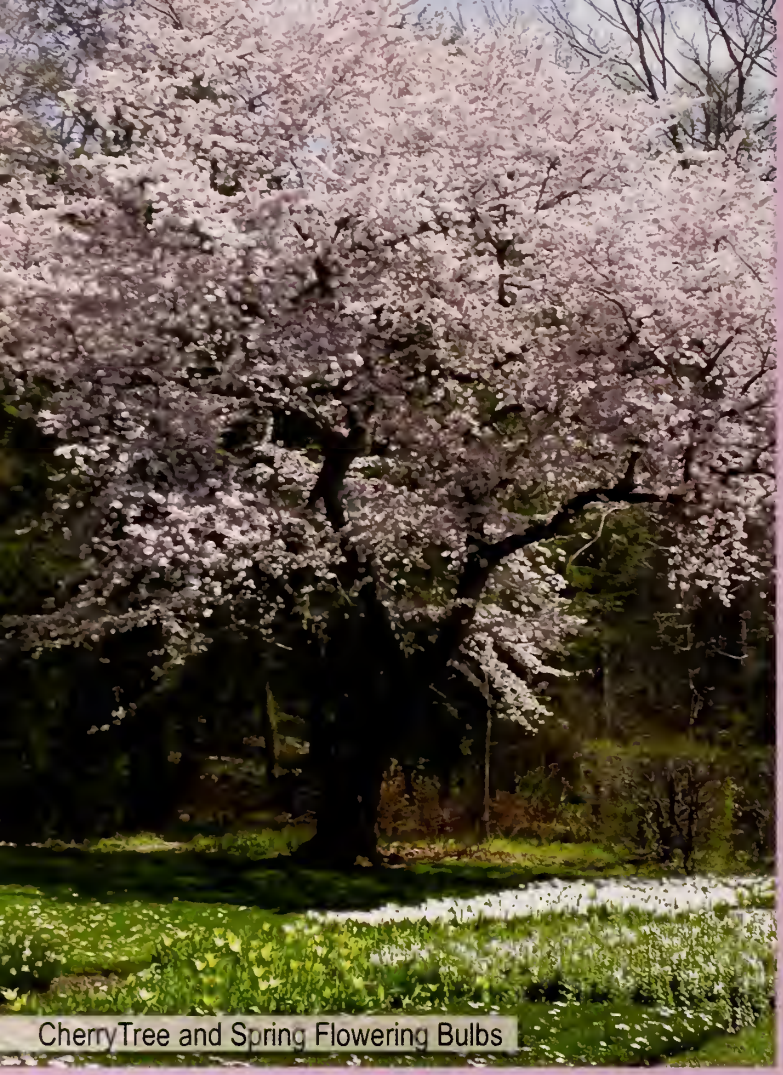


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SPECIAL PREVIEW
2006 Philadelphia Flower Show



THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



CherryTree and Spring Flowering Bulbs



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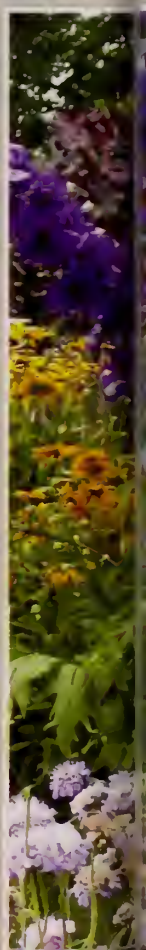


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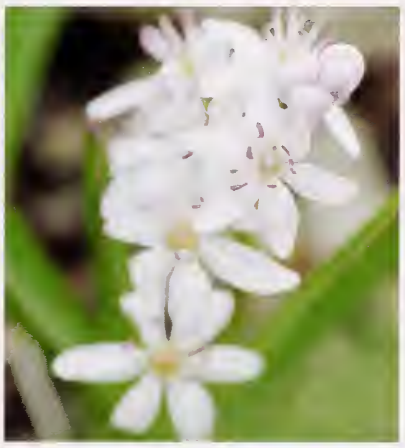
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Thanks to some help from a very special lady, the 2006 Philadelphia Flower Show is poised to be the best one yet! *Enchanted Spring...A Tribute to Mother Nature* will dazzle Show veterans and first timers alike with its stunning displays of nature's splendor. Get the inside scoop from Betsie Blodgett in the pages ahead.

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The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

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Every Flower Show has its personality. The 2006 Show has gone one better—it's already had two personalities. First, there was *Earthly Delights*, a concept we had been working on for a couple of years. As the elements of the Central Feature exhibit started to take shape, this title simply didn't do justice to the exciting displays that Show Designer Sam Lemheney and the exhibit creators were starting to put on paper. Last April, we decided that *Earthly Delights*, in the best gardening tradition, had to hit the compost pile. In its stead, we selected a fresh-as-a-daisy new title, *Enchanted Spring...A Tribute to Mother Nature*, and suddenly all was well. The title worked with the exhibits and conveyed much more satisfactorily what we think will arise from the floor of the Convention Center during set-up week.

I use that word "arise" carefully, because that's exactly what happens. One day you walk in and the place is empty, save for a few old boxes left over from whatever trade show has just finished. The next day, the place is teeming with people, lights are dangling, stage sets are arriving on flatbeds, and a veritable convoy of trucks is dumping mulch on the floor.

Every year, I am dazzled by the creativity of our exhibitors and amazed at the dreams they bring to reality in the 10-acre Convention Center. Take Michael Petrie, for example, who with his team from J. Franklin Styer Nurseries is creating the 60 x 25-foot sculpture of Mother Nature that will grace the center of the exhibit hall. "I've lost quite a lot of sleep over this woman," says Michael as he describes the platform he will set up with pallets that will be covered with Styrofoam and then mulch, into which he will set Japanese hollies, weeping cotoneasters, and junipers. "She will be monumental," says Michael, "but serene and green." Under her undulating green skirts will be grottoes in which Life3, a team of Europe's top flower arrangers, will create bright, colorful flower arrangements.

The Philadelphia Flower Show is a team effort like none other and, as the pieces fit together in concept and finally on the Show floor, it always reminds me of the biggest jigsaw puzzle. You can't really see a jigsaw until the last piece is in place. It's the same with the Flower Show, and along every step toward completion there are wonderful people who make it all fun and exciting and rewarding.

To all our exhibitors, volunteers, and staff members, thank you so much for all you do to make the Show a wonderful event. Grateful thanks also to our sponsors. This will be PNC Bank's fifteenth year as presenting sponsor and wonderful partner, and thank you also to Subaru of America, Inc., premier sponsor since 2001. My gratitude also to the following official sponsors: Bartlett Tree Experts; EP Henry; WPVI-TV 6 ABC; Philadelphia Newspapers, Inc.; and ARAMARK.

The Flower Show is just the beginning of the gardening year for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Once the weather warms up, PHS members have the opportunity to take advantage of a wide array of classes and trips and complimentary admission to Chanticleer, a wonderful estate garden in Wayne.

By April, our staff members are ready to take all the winter plans for new Philadelphia Green projects off the drawing board and into the community. For more than three decades, PHS has been investing Flower Show proceeds into accomplishing its mission *to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.* Hundreds of acres of abandoned land in Philadelphia have become green assets in communities thanks to monies raised at the Flower Show. Through Philadelphia Green and the efforts of many city residents, we have also planted thousands of trees and improved dozens of parks. The numbers don't do justice to a program that has had such a significant impact on the city of Philadelphia.

If you would like to come with us and visit some of these sites in the summer, please send an email to *pginfo@pennhort.org* or call 215-988-8800.

Another exciting year is about to begin, and we are so glad that you, our members, are part of it.

Jane Pepper

Jane G. Pepper, President
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

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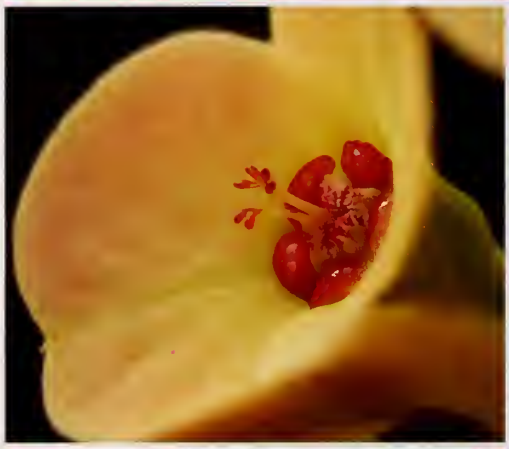


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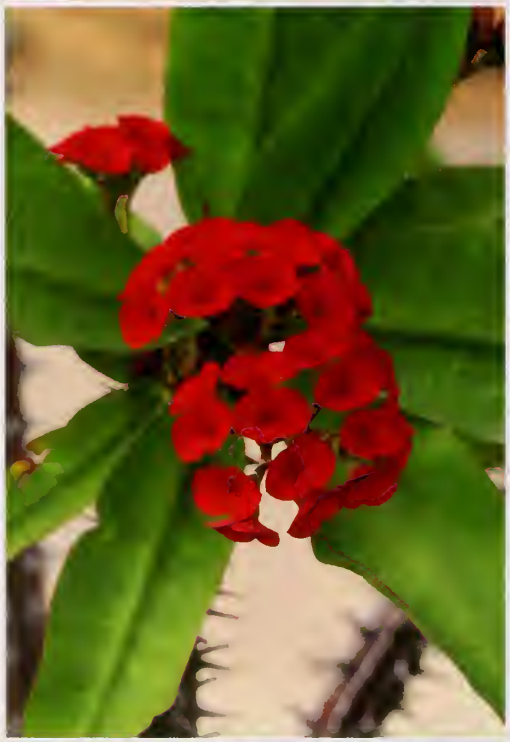
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GROWING Euphorbia milii









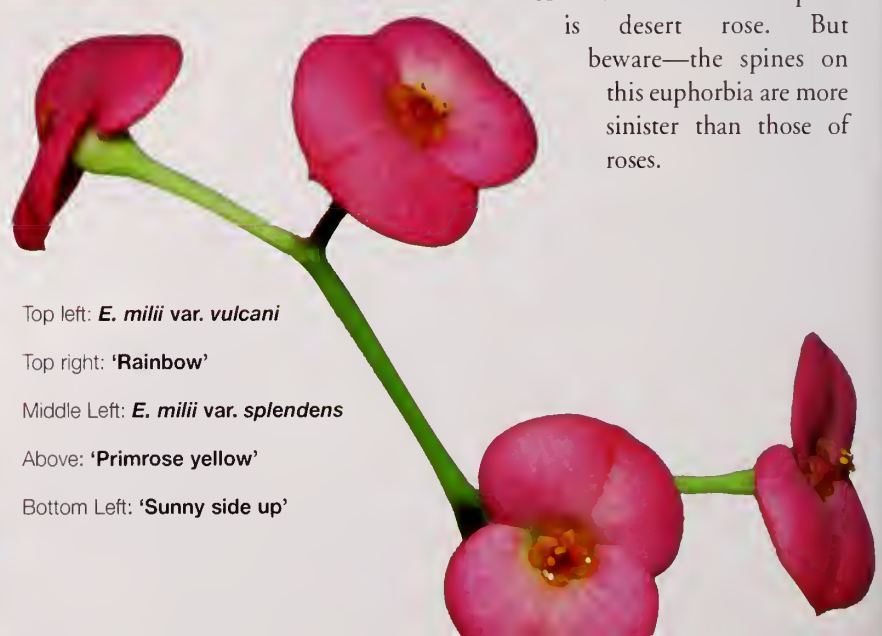


Alan & Linda Detrick

What type of plant could be better than a crisp, green-foliaged, disease-resistant, low-maintenance houseplant that blooms continuously? *Euphorbia milii* is just such a plant. When I began growing it several years ago, I was amazed at the ease of culture and the floriferous habit of this wonderful plant.

As soon as the danger of frost is past in late spring, I place my potted euphorbias outside in a semi-shaded location in the garden. In its own container, this plant does extremely well with regular, but not excessive, watering and a bit of high-phosphorous fertilizer each month. If you miss a watering or two, the plant remains in good condition, since it stores water in its woody (and spiny) gray stems. It does prefer well-drained potting soil enriched with some compost and supplemental watering once the soil becomes dry. As a houseplant during colder months, its only other need is a few hours of direct sunlight a day, such as near a southern or western window.

Madagascar is the native home of these plants, which are considered hardy only to Zone 10 here. *Euphorbia milii* (pronounced *you-for-bee-uh mill-eee-eye*) usually grows rather slowly to a height of 3 to 4 feet, although the variety 'Splendens' grows 5 to 6 feet. Occasionally, I see a 3-foot plant outdoors in the summer here, and, from a distance, it looks a bit like a rose bush. Indeed, one of the common names for this plant is desert rose. But beware—the spines on this euphorbia are more sinister than those of roses.



Top left: ***E. milii* var. *vulcani***

Top right: **'Rainbow'**

Middle Left: ***E. milii* var. *splendens***

Above: **'Primrose yellow'**

Bottom Left: **'Sunny side up'**

This might explain some of the other common names for this plant, such as crown of thorns, or Christ plant. Other common names derive from the so-called Thai hybrids, a group of this genus that has larger blooms, foliage and stems than *E. milii*. "In Thailand, these plants are known as Poysean (Chinese for eight saints) and are regarded as bringing good fortune (lucky plants)," according to the website of Wanapluck Garden Co., Ltd. of Thailand.

Like other plants in the EUPHORIACEAE family, the showy portion of the inflorescence of *Euphorbia milii* are bracts, or specialized leaves. The actual flower, called a cyathium, contains a very small female flower surrounded by three male flowers, which are reduced to single stamens. The *cyathea* are borne in pairs and are subtended by two colorful bracts known as *cyathophylls*. While the plants flower year-round, they are at their best in the winter and spring.

The Thai hybrids have drastically increased in number over the past 30 years. The common colors are red and yellow, though hues range from red, orange, salmon, yellow, chartreuse, cream, and white to pastels and variegated versions of many of these. A few varieties have variegated foliage as well, but these are reputed to be difficult to grow and unstable in their variegation.

To see a large selection of *Euphorbia milii* cultivars and to learn more about their culture, visit the web sites listed below. You're sure to be euphoric at the fabulous array of euphorbias.

—Marilyn Romenesko

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The Gardener's Bookshelf

By Daniel Moise



Courtyards: Intimate Outdoor Spaces

by Douglas Keister

(151 pp., $39.95)

Photographer Douglas Keister's new book showcases the artistry and charm of courtyards across the globe. The stunning scenes, rich in color and texture, stir emotions and awaken an appreciation for design. But *Courtyards* offers far more than pretty photos: its in-depth look at enchanted private spaces makes for a fascinating read. Perhaps what's most memorable is the tremendous diversity of the properties. Whether ancient or contemporary, simple or ornate, each courtyard boasts a distinctive flare and a sense of serenity. And we all could use some of that.



The Welcoming Garden

by Gordon Hayward

(144 pp., $29.95)

What's the first thing guests notice when paying a visit? The front door, of course. Why not make a good first impression by taking a break from the backyard and developing a front garden to suit your taste and personality? In Gordon Hayward's new book, *The Welcoming Garden*, readers receive handy hints for creating flower-lined walkways, intimate sitting areas, and other clever features that will make your visitors feel welcome. As a source of inspiration (or, perhaps, *envy*), the book also features several full-page photos of homes with heavenly front gardens.



The Outdoor Living Idea Book

by Lee Ann White

(185 pp., $19.95)

The Outdoor Living Idea Book, new from Taunton Press, explores the limitless possibilities a backyard provides. Whether it's a dining area for summer entertaining, a welcoming spot to unwind, or a safe haven for kids to unleash their energy, a backyard should be an extension of the home and a reflection of its owner. Author Lee Ann White offers an abundance of tips and tricks to utilize terrains of all shapes and sizes. The book covers the basics, such as porch and patio decor, but also delves into romantic and luxurious backyard accoutrements, including Victorian-style gazebos and cascading water fixtures. Even often-overlooked details, such as wiring and weatherproofing, are covered in this exhaustive guide to the great outdoors.

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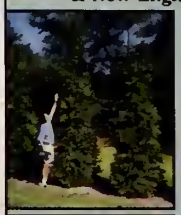


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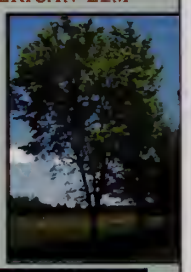
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The Mother of All Shows!

Story by Betsie Blodgett



A Preview of the 2006 Philadelphia Flower Show

Mother Nature never had it so good.

With spring just around the corner, she will be surrounded by the most colorful and fragrant flowers, the finest horticultural specimens, and the most imaginative displays the world has to offer. And you can share it with her March 5 through 12, when the 2006 Philadelphia Flower Show comes to the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Enchanted Spring...A Tribute to Mother Nature will feature one-of-a-kind exhibits, a new and improved floor plan in the amateur section, and interactive learning stations, all part of the world's largest—and many say the best—indoor flower show in the world.

From the fragrant, enchanted *Floratopia* tree welcoming you at the entrance to exhibits showing how to create your own backyard paradise, this year's Flower Show "will be a journey through Mother Nature's garden—spectacular, whimsical, imaginative. It's like nothing you've ever seen before," says Sam Lemheney, show's design director.

"This will make people remember that gardening is about having fun, that you're allowed to do whatever you want in your own garden," he adds.

No doubt he has had a tremendous amount of fun planning this year's Central Features, where a towering figure called *Natura*—who at 25 feet high and 60 feet long is the biggest sculpture ever created entirely from living plants—will reign supreme.

This Mother Nature, inspired by fairy tales Lemheney has read to his two young children, is a long-distance collaboration with set designer MR Daniels; J. Franklin Styer Nurseries vice president Michael Petrie; and world-champion European floral designers Tomas De Bruyne, Max van de Sluis, and Per Benjamin, better known as Life3.

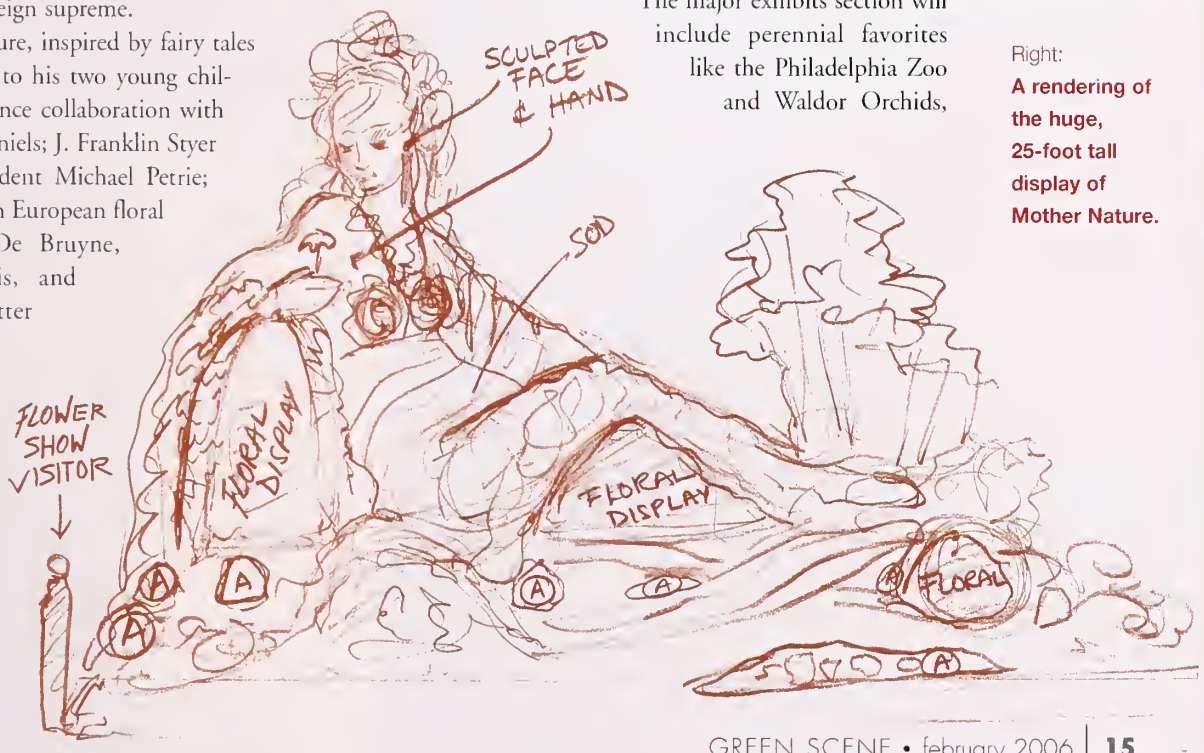
"They've pulled out all the stops with their ingenuity," says Jane Pepper, president of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), which produces the Flower Show. "It's one of the most exotic and certainly one of the most challenging Central Features we've ever done."

"It's a combination of different things," Petrie says of the recumbent Natura, from whose uplifted hand will flow a gentle trickle of water. "She will be a huge presence in the building." While Natura herself will be constructed from thousands of green plants, color and flash will come from Life3's floral extravaganzas tucked into six cave-like openings in her reclining form.

Life3, whom Lemheney calls "the rock stars of the floral world," promises their designs interpreting the colors of the rainbow "will blow people away." (Life3 will be at the Flower Show on Monday, March 6, and Tuesday, March 7 for floral demonstrations, a book signing, and workshops. Please visit *www.theflowershow.com/attractions/special* or call 215-988-8879 for more information or to purchase tickets for these events.)

Jack Blandy, president of Stoney Bank Nurseries, who has exhibited in the Flower Show for 26 years, interprets three elements—water, wind, and fire—in "Mother Nature's Garden," skillfully blending whimsy with down-to-earth horticulture (see sidebar).

The major exhibits section will include perennial favorites like the Philadelphia Zoo and Waldor Orchids,



Right:
A rendering of the huge, 25-foot tall display of Mother Nature.

Lightning Strikes Again

*It had been a stressful Thanksgiving weekend for Jack Blandy after a lightning bolt knocked out power to his greenhouses. But once he started talking about his plans for the Philadelphia Flower Show, all the worrying and lost sleep quickly faded away.

"I think it's going to be the best thing I've ever done," says Blandy, president of Stoney Bank Nurseries, who has exhibited in the Flower Show for 26 years and has picked up quite a few Best of Show awards along the way. *Mother Nature's Garden* will be three gardens in one, depicting a trio of Mother Nature's elements—Fire, Water, and Wind.







Above: **Garden display sketches**

At more than 4,200 square feet in exhibit space, it's certainly the largest exhibit Blandy has ever designed and executed. "This is going to be pretty big," agrees Shows design director Sam Lemheney. "Jack is doing three full gardens; they'll each have their own personality, and Jack is going to bring them to life."

With fire-colored plants evoking a lava flow, kites flying high over a stylized meadow, and every imaginable type of water garden, Jack promises this exhibit will appeal to novice gardeners as well as expert horticulturists.

While visitors will be wowed with special effects, including spraying fountains over an underwater castle and fans ruffling a prairie meadow, Stoney Bank's exhibit will also offer plant and design ideas for the Delaware Valley gardener. "It's going to be a nice marriage of exciting stuff and our strong horticultural background," Jack says. "The whimsy of these three gardens is anchored in horticulture for the greatest indoor Flower Show in the world."

as well as Waterloo Gardens, returning to the Flower Show after a 14-year absence; newcomers Tourism Ireland; the American Horticultural Society; and TreeVitalize, a state program that promotes planting trees in southeastern Pennsylvania. A bigger and better PHS Village, with a redesigned Flower Show Shoppe and new Philadelphia Green exhibit, provides more room for this popular attraction.

But don't limit your Flower Show experience to one side of the building, for you'll miss out on *It's Your Garden* and the revamped amateur exhibits in Hall B. "Visitors will be entertained as they're learning," says Lisa Stephano, public relations and marketing director at PHS, describing the new floor plan and exhibits that will teach visitors how to "Know It, Grow It, and Show It."

Enhanced signage, interactive displays, live demonstrations, and lots of "insider" tips will make you feel like a part of the Flower Show, not just a visitor. And look for two new classes in this section—arbors and pedestals—to give you even more inspiration for your own home and garden. "Free collectors' cards depicting three-season window box designs, complete with plant suggestions and growing tips, will be available from designated volunteers and at Flower Show Information Booths," Stephano adds.

To get the maximum enjoyment from your visit, it pays to plan ahead. Bugged by a critter that's defoliating your dahlias? Visit the Horticultural Information Booth in Hall B to speak with an expert. Always had a secret desire to raise orchids but heard they were impossible to grow? Check out the featured speakers at the Gardener's Studio located on the Show floor to conquer your *Cattleya* fears. (Please visit the Flower Show website, *www.theflowershow.com*, or pick up schedules at the Show for up-to-date information.)

Free All-Star Culinary Presentations and the Lecture Series on the Convention Center Concourse offer a chance to rest your feet while you're learning about the art of ikebana or a Philadelphia celebrity chef's favorite shortcuts in the kitchen. (Handouts at many of these scheduled events ensure you won't forget what you've learned once you get home.)

Whether you come to soak up the lectures and demonstrations, see the horticultural and artistic exhibits, or shop at the Marketplace, Lemheney promises you will not be disappointed. "You have to see it for yourself," he says. "This is one Show you don't want to miss."







Above: **Mother Nature's hands and face being carved out of foam.**

Left: **A section of the Central Feature**

Show Information:

Dates: March 5 - 12, 2006
Theme: Enchanted Spring...A Tribute to Mother Nature
Website:
www.theflowershow.com
Phone Information:
215-988-8899
(recorded info)

Location:
Pennsylvania Convention Center
12th & Arch Streets,
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Hours:
Sundays, March 5 & March 12
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Monday, March 6 - Friday, March 10
10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 11
8 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Best viewing hours are after 4 p.m. Box Office closes one hour before Show closing on all days.

Producer:
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Presenting Sponsor:
PNC Bank

Tickets:
Adults (*at the door*)
Opening Day
Sunday, March 6.....$26

Monday
March 6 - Friday, March 10.....$22

Saturday,
March 11 & Sunday, March 12.....$24

Children, ages 2 - 12 (*at the door*)
March 5 - 12.....$12

Advance Tickets:
(good any day, available online and at Sales Outlets)*
Adults $20
Children (ages 2 - 12) $12

Tickets available online at
www.theflowershow.com

*Sales Outlets: Flower Show tickets are available at participating PNC Bank branches, AAA Mid-Atlantic branches, Acme Markets, Philadelphia-area Borders Books & Music, Clemens Markets, SEPTA ticket-sales outlets, and participating garden centers, nurseries and florists. Check availability with individual outlets; service charges may apply.

Show revenues support the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's outreach efforts, including its acclaimed greening program, Philadelphia Green (www.philadelphiagreen.org).

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PUSSY WILLOW Workshop

Story by Ellen Spector Platt
Photography by Alan & Linda Detrick





Thousands of people leave the Philadelphia Flower Show each year carrying armloads of pussy willows. In fact, you can't call yourself a loyal Flower Show visitor unless you've been poked in the eye by a rogue willow branch while riding the train home. But once your eye heals, the real fun can begin. Here are a few creative arranging tips for your post-Show frolics.

CUT & DRIED

The simplest way to dry pussy willows is to cut the bottom off the stems, leaving branches roughly twice the height of your vase. The branches will dry in place without further effort on your part and will last for years to come.

FRESH & FURRY

If you'd prefer not to dry your pussy willow, treat it like any fresh-cut flower. Re-cut the bottom of the stems at home and place in a clean vase with water and floral preservative. Add other spring flowers such as daffodils or tulips, or add branches for forcing such as forsythia or quince. The pussy willow catkins will continue to swell, mature, and develop their pollen. Eventually the catkins will drop off as the leaves emerge. When the wilting begins you can toss the whole arrangement on the compost pile.



IN THE GROUND

One year at the Flower Show I was inspired to produce my own branches in perpetuity, so I bought a bunch of fantail willow, an interesting variety with contorted stems. At home I cut the bottom of the stems and placed the bunch in a coffee can full of water, topping up as needed. Eventually the catkins and leaves developed. When white roots appeared I added a cup of garden soil to the water. Every week I added another cup of soil and more water so the slurry never dried out. By the beginning of May I had branches with nice roots.

Mature pussy willow will actually grow into small trees up to 25 feet high and 15 feet wide. But I knew that mine would never get that large because I'd been cutting branches every year.

In my garden I dug four holes, 12 feet apart, and selected my four best stems for planting. Pussy willow prefers moist ground and full sun. Since the shrub isn't particularly attractive after early spring, I chose a site neatly concealed behind a garden shed. The rooted stems grew extremely fast. A 3-foot branch became a 6-foot shrub in the first year. I made sure to give the young shrubs plenty of extra water the first year after planting.

By the second year I was cutting my own branches for a vase indoors and by the third year, to my intense delight, I started selling a modest harvest of bunches at my own booth in the Show's Marketplace.



FAVORITE SPECIES

Each species of pussy willow has its winning attributes, but here are a few of my favorites: The most familiar species is *Salix discolor* (Zones 4 to 8), which develops large, silver catkins in spring. *Salix sachalinensis* (Zones 5 to 7), the fan-tail willow known as Sekka, has flat branches that often form interesting patterns. *Salix gracilistyla* 'Melanostachys' (Zones 5 to 8), the red-gold pussy willow, sports black catkins with brick-red anthers.

FAVORITE WREATHS

I know of several ways to make pussy willow wreaths that look nice, either on their own or with other flowers and herbs. For any style wreath, make sure the stems are still pliable before beginning. It's best to get started in the first few days after getting them home; that way the catkins won't drop and the stems will still bend easily if you want them to.

Whatever style you make, remember that the stems shrink as they dry, so make the wreath extra full and pull wrapping wire tight to allow for shrinkage.

PUSSY WILLOW SWIRL

- Start with a wire wreath form with clamps, about 10 or 12 inches in diameter.
- Cut branches of fresh pussy willow into 6- to 8-inch lengths. Then make 10 to 12 piles of at least six pieces each.
- Place a bundle on the frame inside a set of clamps, positioning the tips out at a slight angle. Bend the clamps down tightly.
- Place the second bundle overlapping the stems of the first and clamp it in place.
- Continue around the wreath clamping each bundle. When you get to the last bundle it will be a little harder and you may want to clip the stems slightly shorter.
- Add a bow if desired.
- Because stems shrink as they dry, make sure the clamps are very full and secure to allow for the shrinkage.
- Use the wreath to hang indoors or outdoors in a protected place, or use without the bow flat on a table as part of a centerpiece.







"HEART OF MY HEART" DESIGN

Cut 11 stems of fresh pussy willow. Bind the stems together with florist spool wire about 4 inches from the bottom of the pile. Now grasp four stems near the top and pull down to the right and affix to the wired spot near the bottom. Take four stems and pull down to the left. You now have the two loops of the heart with three tall branches springing up at the top. Cover all the wire at the bottom with some ribbon or a raffia bow.

Top: **Pussy Willow Heart Wreath with bow.**
Left Top: ***Salix discolor* blossoms (Pussy Willow) catkins.**
Left Inset: ***Salix gracilistyla* var. Melanostachys .**

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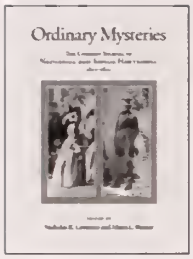


Protecting Your Trees

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20th ANNIVERSARY *Thank You!*

Memoirs of the American Philosophical Society



Ordinary Mysteries: The Common Journal of Nathaniel and Sophia Hawthorne, 1842-1843

Nicholas R. Lawrence and Marta L. Werner

From the summer of 1842 through the fall of 1843, Nathaniel and Sophia Hawthorne kept a common journal of their daily lives in a notebook currently housed in the Pierpont Morgan Library. Intended solely for their own eyes, the journal records the ordinary events and activities that occupied the Hawthornes as newlyweds: walks through the countryside around Concord, appraisals of their new home, encounters with neighbors (among them Emerson, Fuller, and Thoreau), descriptions of the weather and the changing seasons—all material that Hawthorne would later draw on for the preface to his second collection of tales, *Mosses from an Old Manse* (1846). Its most persistent note, however, is the mutual expression of marital happiness. For over a century the journal has been available in published form only as a mutilated text, edited initially by Sophia, who divorced Nathaniel's entries from her own and presented them as extracts from his solo notebooks. *Ordinary Mysteries* makes available for the first time a full facsimile edition of the journal, preserving the interplay of the Hawthorne's collaboration and revealing the censorship executed by Sophia on the manuscript after Nathaniel's death.

Vol. 256 0-87169-256-2 / 978-0-87169-256-6 $75.00
Printed January 2006



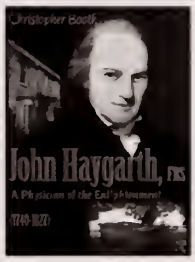
Emil von Behring

Infectious Disease, Immunology, Serum Therapy

Derek S. Linton

In 1901 Emil von Behring received the first Nobel Prize in medicine for serum therapy against diphtheria, a disease that killed thousands of infants annually. Diphtheria serum was the first major cure of the bacteriological era and its development generated novel procedures for testing, standardizing, and regulating drugs. Since the introduction of antibiotics Behring and his work have largely been forgotten. In the first English-language scientific biography of Behring, Derek S. Linton emphasizes Behring's seminal contributions to the study of infectious diseases, the formation of modern immunology and innovative research on specific remedies, and vaccines against deadly microbial infections. This biography explores his complex relations to the rival bacteriological schools of Robert Koch in Berlin and Louis Pasteur in Paris, the emergent German pharmaceutical industry, and the institutionalization of experimental therapeutic research. The second part of the volume contains translations of thirteen key articles by Behring and his associates on infectious diseases, immunology, drug testing, and therapeutics spanning thirty years of his remarkable scientific career.

Vol. 255 0-87169-255-4/978-0-87169-255-9 $65 Printed September 2005



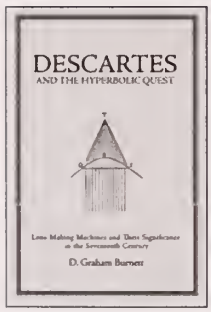
John Haygarth, FRS (1740–1827): *A Physician of the Enlightenment*

Christopher Booth

John Haygarth, MD, FRS (1740–1827) hailed from an obscure valley in the Yorkshire dales in the north west of England. Educated at Sedbergh School, Cambridge, and Edinburgh, he became a physician in Chester in 1767. There he introduced separate wards in the Chester Infirmary where patients with fever could be isolated and cared for. It was the stimulus for the development of the fever hospitals of nineteenth-century England. Haygarth moved to Bath in 1798, where he continued to write on medical matters. He also played a major role in the foundation of the Bath Provident Institution for Savings, a model for the savings-bank movement in England.

Vol. 254 0-87169-254-6/978-0-87169-254-2 $60 Printed July 2005

Transactions of the American Philosophical Society

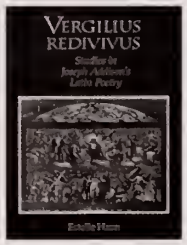


Descartes and the Hyperbolic Quest: Lens Making Machines and Their Significance in the Seventeenth Century

D. Graham Burnett

"...if you have a year or two to apply yourself to all that is necessary, I would hope that we might see, by your efforts, if there are animals on the moon..." With this alluring suggestion, penned in the autumn of 1629, René Descartes enticed a young provincial artisan to undertake an unprecedented and secretive project, one that promised to revolutionize early modern astronomy. Descartes believed he had conceived a new kind of telescope lens, shaped by the light of reason itself, and cut by an elaborate machine, a self-regulating and automatic device capable of bringing crystalline geometry to the muddy earth. This study traces the inception, development, and finally the collapse of this ambitious enterprise, which absorbed the energies and attentions of a broad range of seventeenth-century savants, including Huygens, Wren, Hevelius, Hooke, and even Newton. Examining in detail the making of lenses over a vitally significant century, *Descartes and the Hyperbolic Quest* sheds light on the history of telescopes in a tumultuous period, on the changing relationship between instrument makers and mathematical adepts, on the mechanical philosophy and its machines, and finally on the life and thought of Descartes himself.

Vol. 95, Pt. 3 0-87169-953-2 $24 Printed October 2005



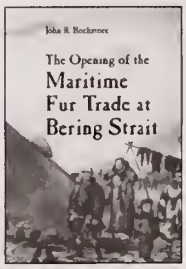
Vergilius Redivivus

Studies in Joseph Addison's Latin Poetry

Estelle Haan

Virtually ignored by modern scholarship, Addison's Latin verse has failed to receive the critical attention it deserves. Addison's current reputation rests almost exclusively on his role as the accomplished essayist of the *Spectator* and *Tatler* papers, as the author of the drama *Cato*, and as the composer of a body of minor English verse. Estelle Haan examines the intricate inter-textual relationships between some of Addison's neo-Latin poems and the poetic corpus of one Augustan poet: Virgil (in particular, the *Georgics*).

Vol. 95, Pt.2 0-87169-952-4 $24 Printed June 2005



The Opening of the Maritime Fur Trade at Bering Strait

Americans and Russians Meet the Kanigmiut in Kotzebue Sound

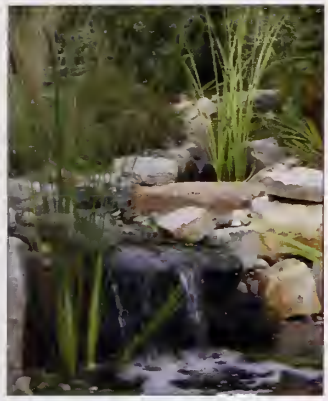
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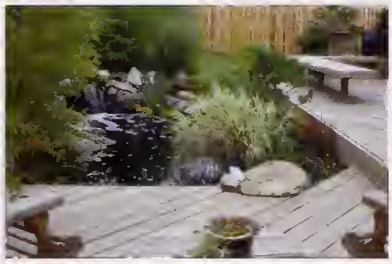
The maritime fur trade was an important commercial force in the Bering Strait region from the early nineteenth century until to outbreak of the Second Word War; nevertheless, its origins are not well understood. Two important documents—which have received little scholarly attention—shed considerable light on the genesis of this trade. These manuscripts describe the voyages of the American trading brigs General San Martín in 1819 and Pedler in 1820, and they provide valuable information on the complicated relationships that existed between the American maritime traders and the Russian officials in Kamchatka and Alaska, as well as with the inhabitants of the Bering Strait region in the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

Vol. 95, Pt. 1 0-87169-951-6 $24 Printed June 2005

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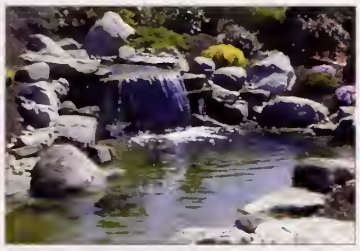
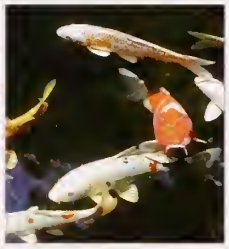
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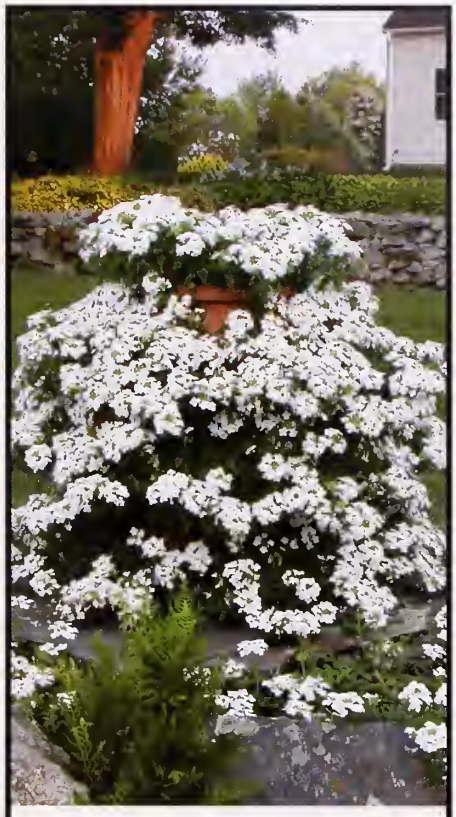


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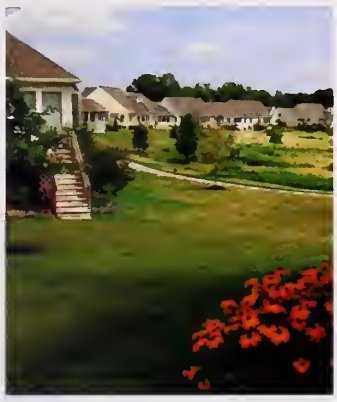
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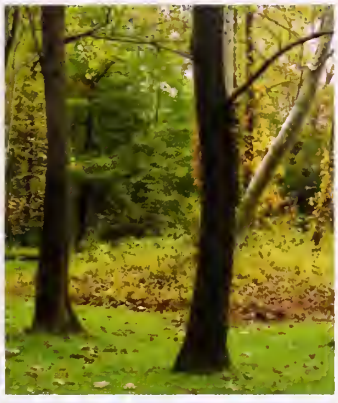
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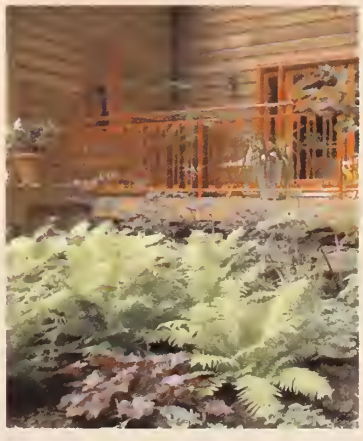


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Bring on Spring with Early Bulbs

Story and Photography
By Jessie Anne Keith

As the cold days of winter start to lengthen, I eagerly await the bright clusters of Narcissus, pale blue puschkins, and festive *Crocus* that magically appear in my frosty beds and lawn. Of all the season's flowers, early bulbs—or geophytes, as they're known botanically—surely impact the human psyche the most. They are the perfect cure for slushy days, icy feet and fingers, and the late winter doldrums. Their cheerful colors remind us of new growth and the approaching warmer weather, even though they disappear almost as quickly as they arrive.

Some of the most beloved early geophytes are **CROCUSES**. Fittingly called "herald-of-spring," *Crocus* are born from corms and boast 115 species, only a handful of which are heavily cultivated. Three of the most popular spring blooming species are *C. chrysanthus, C. seiberi,* and *C. vernus.* These have yielded over 70 cultivars, including many tried-and-true antique varieties that have never fallen out of fashion.

The giant crocus, *Crocus vernus,* has enormous flowers that can reach up to

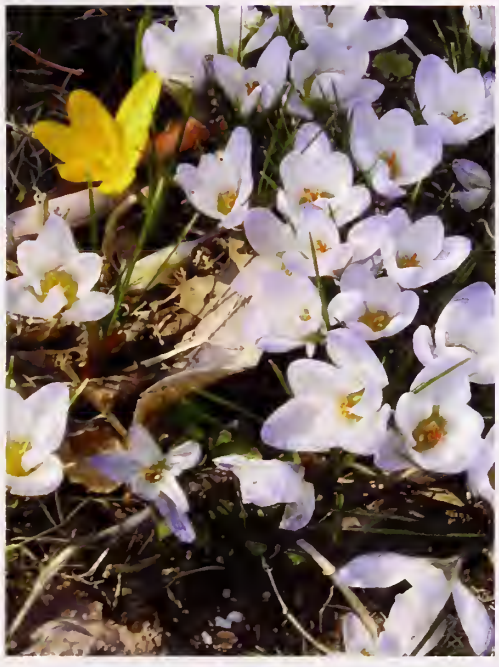
2 inches across. The classic Dutch cultivar 'Pickwick' has charming purple and white candy-stripes and looks great with the velvety purple *C. vernus* 'Purpureus Grandiflorus' (introduced in 1870). Last year mine bloomed in early March along with the vigorous clean white, *C. vernus* 'Joan of Arc' (1943).

Vibrant colors are welcome in early spring, and the magenta, gold, and white-throated *Crocus sieberi* subsp. *sublimis* 'Tricolor' is a knockout. When planted in sweeps they pack an impressive punch. A little less flashy, but equally beautiful are *C. chrysanthus*, the 1943 introduction 'Cream Beauty', and its opalescent blue counterpart 'Blue Pearl'. Their subdued colors look very pretty planted with small snowdrops.

Snowdrops (*Galanthus* spp.) were first popularized in the United States in the eighteenth century. Many heirlooms are still available, and they are long-lived, so old clumps commonly show up around old homes. Their nodding white blooms appear as early as January and have three prominent petals (actually petal-like sepals called "tepals") and an inner corona decorated with green marks. There are 19 species and many cultivars. To collectors, *Galanthus* variants are all distinct and wonderful, but to the untrained eye their differences are very subtle. But even snowdrop neophytes would recognize some selections as extraordinary.

The double snowdrop, *Galanthus nivalis* 'Flore Pleno' (1731) has flowers that look like skirts with ruffled petticoats. The first US citation of this cultivar was made in 1735 by famed Philadelphia botanist John Bartram. The elegant teardrop flowers of the Greek native *Galanthus ikariae* are some of my favorites, and the eye-catching giant snowdrop, *Galanthus elwesii*, is especially tall (10 inches) and vigorous. There are also many great, but rare, cultivars. *Galanthus nivalis* 'Angelique' has a distinct elongated corona and large drooping petals with just a hint of green, and the hard-to-find 'Modern Art' has unique, tripod-like flowers.





Opposite page: ***Iris reticulata* 'Gordon'**

Above: ***Crocus sieberi* subsp. 'Tricolor'**

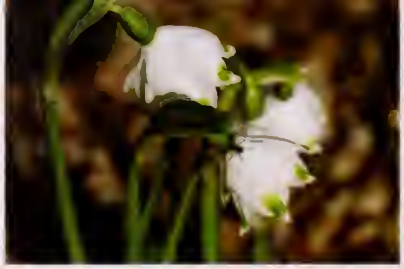
Left: ***Crocus* 'Cream Beauty and 'Blue Pearl'**

Below: ***Galanthus ikariae* and *Crocus vernus***

Bottom: ***Galanthus elwesii***



















Clockwise starting top left:

Leucojum vernum

Eranthus

***Narcissus* 'Rip Van Winkle'**

***Chionodoxa luciliae* 'Alba'**

***Iris histrioides* 'George'**

Scilla bifolia

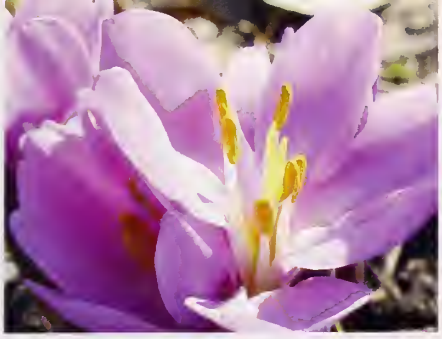
Tall, early-blooming *Narcissus* tazetta hybrid

Like snowdrops, the **SPRING SNOWFLAKE** (*Leucojum vernum*) also has a wintery common name and habit. *Leucojum* and *Galanthus* are often mixed up due to similar names, bloom times, and colors, but they are very different. Unlike *Galanthus*, *Leucojum* are taller, reaching up to 12 inches, and their scapes carry multiple bell-like flowers with six petals tipped with green spots. Mine are happily growing beneath a red oak among a large patch of golden winter aconite.

Eranthis hymalis is the most common of the **WINTER ACONITES**. This carefree member of the buttercup family (RANUNCULACEAE) is born from small tubers that naturalize well, particularly under trees. Close up they look like glassy buttercups wearing ruffs of pinkish green foliage, but at a distance mature sweeps become blankets of gold. Either way, they are impressive. Another vernal buttercup is ***Adonis amurensis***. It is less common but worth seeking out. The flowers of this hard-to-propagate gem have cellophane yellow petals and feathery dark green foliage that almost look like plastic. A few years ago I carefully planted one in a protected spot. It has since grown well, giving me the confidence to invest in more choice Japanese cultivars, like *A. multiflora* 'Sandanzaki', which has double gold flowers with an inner whorl of chartreuse petals.

One cannot speak of golden spring flowers without mentioning **DAFFODILS**. The first daffodils that break bud in my garden are the small Cyclamineus daffodils, like the popular American cultivar 'Jetfire' (1966), the maize 'February Gold' (1923), and the creamy apricot 'Snipe'. These begin to make their appearance in the beginning of March, along with the prettily unkempt double Victorian heirloom *Narcissus* 'Rip van Winkle'.

Little blue spring flowers were a childhood favorite, so two years ago I set out to fulfill my purple/blue, smaller bulb needs. I interspersed ***Scilla siberica* 'Spring Beauty'**, pale cerulean ***Scilla bifolia***, blue striped ***Puschkinia scilloides***, and **glory-of-the-snow** (*Chionodoxa luciliae*) among pre-existing clumps of daffodils. The result was sensational and top billing went to the Siberian squill. *Scilla siberica* 'Spring



Right: ***Bulbocodium vernum***

Beauty' has some of the best blue color. It spreads fast via bulb and seed—painting the landscape in only a few years—and cleans up easily. Once spent, I simply rake the leaves away.

Scilla, Puschkinia, and *Chionodoxa* are similar in size and appearance, so they are often confused. Thankfully, several floral features easily distinguish them. *Chionodoxa* and *Puschkinia* have flowers with a small pointed corona and tepals that are fused at the base, while *Scilla* have free tepals and no corona. Flower shape and size easily distinguish *Puschkinia* and *Chionodoxa. Puschkinia* have smaller flowers held in a bell shape, while *Chionodoxa* have larger flowers that open flat.

The earliest **irises** are dwarf rock dwellers like the purple *Iris* 'George', grey spotted hybrid 'Katherine Hodgkin', and perky yellow *Iris danfordiae.* Their cool flowers look best planted *en masse* along border edges or within rock gardens. The taller clump-forming *Iris reticulata* can reach 12 inches and boasts many great cultivars in shades of blue, purple, and white. I recommend interplanting the radiant blue cultivar 'Gordon' and clear white 'Natascha'.

So cheer up your late-winter garden with more early color. Plan ahead now by marking out new bulb territory to be conquered, and don't be afraid to try new, earlier, and more colorful bulbs. For me, this year's pick is the electric pink ***Bulbocodium vernum.*** Make bulb lists, get the best pickings from the spring bulb vendors, and plant big this fall. You won't be sorry you did!

Jessie Anne Keith is a garden writer and horticultural instructor at the Williamson Free School in Media, PA. Her background is in both horticulture and plant biology.

Frost Fighters!

When early geophytes bloom, abrupt snowstorms are as common as spurts of untimely warm weather, but they are amazingly resilient to such harsh conditions. They hug the ground and have many frost protection mechanisms, such as antifreeze proteins. Others, like *Adonis*, even have flowers that track and reflect the sun, causing them to heat up, creating a pollinator oasis (pollination being another late-winter challenge).

Insect pollinators are *poikilotherms* (cold-blooded) and need warmth to move, so on chance warm days, early bloomers must lure them fast with every floral enticement, like bright colors, nectar, fragrance, etc. On a warm February day while taking a beekeeping course, I observed this efficient seduction firsthand. Our honeybees took flight to forage and returned with loads of azure-blue, saffron-orange, and yellow pollen from nearby patches of *Scilla siberica*, *Crocus*, and *Eranthis*. It was amazing.



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Good Grooming Makes All the Difference

Story by Ray Rogers

Someone jokingly once called me "The King of Grooming." No, I don't spend lots of time and money on haircuts and manicures; the compliment referred to the condition of my Horticourt entries at the Philadelphia Flower Show. It didn't take me long to learn that in the world of horticultural competition, if all the other attributes of two entries are considered equal, evidence of good grooming usually means the difference between a first-place ribbon and a lesser award. Presented here are some pointers to help you make your plants look their best and win you that blue.

Grooming boils down to cleaning up a potential entry. That's it. But as the saying goes, the devil is in the details, so a good groomer spends



All cleaned up and ready for its closeup! The author's fully groomed specimen of *Pelargonium sidoides* won a blue ribbon as well as a rosette prize from the Philadelphia Unit of the Herb Society of America in 2003. The pot and black gravel topdressing completed the presentation.

Photo by Adam Larpson

time and effort removing unsightly plant parts, as well as on using complementary pots and topdressings (more on that later).

Where to begin? First, take a good look at a potential entry. Are there dead, fading, and dirty leaves and flowers, broken or leaning stems, and other faults? They might as well be a garish neon sign flashing on and off for the judges and the public. Anything eye-catching in a bad way must go, so that only the good qualities can shine forth.

Don't go overboard, though. No plant is perfect, and inevitably some defects will remain after even the most detailed grooming session. The trick is to remove enough of the offending parts without making the plant appear naked.

Every exhibitor has a tool kit of some sort to help with grooming. Without question, my favorite tools are my hands. Fingers and thumbs can go over a plant fairly quickly and precisely, and they don't carry the risk of damage from slicing and poking like scissors and tweezers do. Of course I use scissors and tweezers and other implements, but only after making the first pass with my hands. Man-made tools do the fine work that fingers can't, such as removing brown leaf tips and firmly attached dead leaves. Paintbrushes—both intact and with the bristles cut down—handily remove the dust and other particles that huffing and puffing can't. A moistened brush or soft cloth removes most stubborn dirt and white stains (from fertilizers, pesticides, and hard water), as does gentle rubbing with a clean finger and thumb.

For most exhibitors, time is their most valuable grooming resource. Preparing some plants for show can consume prodigious amounts of time; one of my all-time top winners took the better part of two days to get it looking good, and that doesn't include the other hours spent removing thousands of dead leaves as the plant matured. If you have a potential winner, start grooming well before the show date, and make a habit of checking the plant every now and then. You'll stay ahead of the game and may also be alerted to pests or other problems in the meantime.

Just as a simple, unadorned frame presents a picture in an attractive setting, so do a clean, uncomplicated pot and unobtrusive topdressing show off a plant to its best advantage. A plain terracotta pot in dark, earthy shades or tones of gray, plus relatively dark-colored pebbles or fine bark covering the potting mix, act as supporting players for the star of the show—the plant.

The 2006 Philadelphia Flower Show is just weeks away. If you've never entered a plant before, why not make 2006 the year you jump into the pool? Follow the above suggestions, and you just might enjoy the thrill of seeing a blue ribbon next to your plant for all the world to see.



Photo by Richard Hartlage



Photo by Ken Selody

Top: **The author carefully grooming his show entry.**
Bottom: **In its pre-groomed state, this pelargonium clearly needs its dead leaves and debris removed.**

For more information on entering the Philadelphia Flower Show, visit *www.theflowershow.com* and click on the Exhibitor's Guide.



The Art of Passing

By Daniel Moise

Before the entries are judged and the ribbons dispersed, there's an important aspect of the Philadelphia Flower Show competition that most visitors never hear about. The process known as passing is an early step to ensure that all entries meet Show standards. Think of it as a dress rehearsal for plants.

As the sun rises on the first day of the Show, eager exhibitors wake up extra early to head to the Pennsylvania Convention Center and present their creations to the awaiting passing committee. The passers, decked out in aprons and armed with red pencils, are ready to start the inspection. This is a milestone moment for exhibitors since each one has cultivated and cared for his or her entry since at least December 1 of the previous year (roughly three months). Some have been preparing their entry for an entire year.

Make no mistake about it, these passers are no ordinary people. Rather, they are experts in the Competitive Class they examine. Passers fall into two categories: horticultural and artistic.

"The first step," according to Shows Production Director Kathy Mills, "is to ensure that each entry conforms to the rules." This requires that passers observe a laundry list of factors, including the cleanliness of the pot and the accuracy of the entry card. Passers must also check for prohibited materials, such as cut fruits or vegetables and artificial flowers or foliage. It's also imperative that every entry is completely bug-free so as not to contaminate the competition.

An entry that fails to meet the criteria isn't dismissed, rather the exhibitor gets to right any wrongs detected by the passer. "If someone has a problem [with his or her entry] we can catch it before it gets too far. There's a group of wonderful gentlemen who have supplies to help fix almost any problem the passers may find," says Pat Carson, chair of Artistic Passing for 2006. "Everyone is very helpful. If you are missing something in your tool kit, someone is always willing to try and help you out."

Although they are there to assist, members of either passing committee, horticultural and artistic, may not take the reigns and reconfigure an entry. This rule is taken quite seriously to ensure fairness for all Show exhibitors.

Once all the alterations are made and the plants, exhibits, and arrangements are up to snuff, the entry card receives a big, red 'P' and is officially passed. At this time exhibitors are forbidden from further alterations and must bid adieu to their darling display.

Although it can be a nerve-wracking experience, passing is all about positive reinforcement, and nearly every entry presented is passed. "We're there to facilitate and to aid the people entering the Show," notes Horticultural Passing Chair Linda Eirhart. "We want to give them the best chance of winning the best prize they can."

To learn more about entering the Flower Show, visit our website, *www.theflowershow.com.*







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THE POTS THEMSELVES

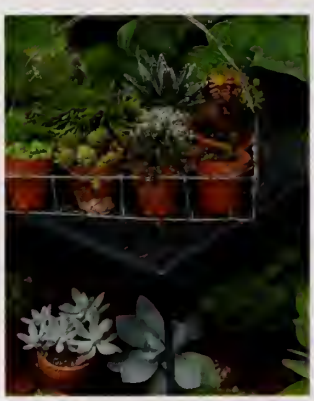
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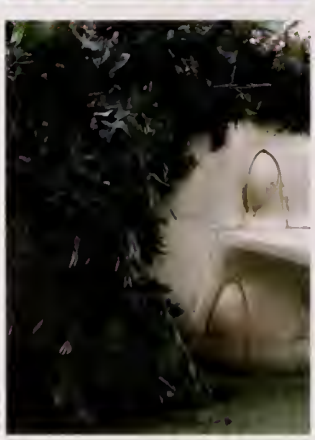
Above: **A simple terracotta container showcases *Cyperus papyrus* at Chanticleer.**



Top right: **Colorful clay pots offer multitudes of possibilities to punch up or play off of color in the garden.**



Middle: **Small containers used collectively as a small vignette in a private garden.**





Above: **A painted sap bucket is an inexpensive yet effective container for *Zephranthes candida* at Scott Arboretum.**

Left: **A marble head is used as a container in a sculpture park in Japan.**

Photos by Rhoda Maurer

It may be cold outside, but spring will beckon in a month or two, and many gardeners will begin to daydream of the summer garden and its myriad potted possibilities. Whether you are adding new containers or modifying an existing garden, it is wise to do a little early-season planning that includes finding the appropriate containers for your garden.

There are many different types of containers, but all must provide a few basic requirements for plants: adequate drainage, adequate root zone area, non-toxic materials (especially for edibles), and the ability to hold potting media. For instance, many succulents and cacti can be grown in shallow containers, but tropicals need a deeper pot for their vigorous root systems. Unglazed clay pots have the best drainage and can develop character with age; the surface weathers and can grow moss. Glazed clay retains water better than unglazed clay and offers many color choices.

Containers present challenges, too. Various metals acquire character with age, but may also rust or decay and sometimes cause the potting medium to overheat, damaging the roots of some plants. Whiskey barrels are often treated with creosote and should be avoided as containers for edibles. Aquatic plants require pots without holes, but all other containers, no matter the size, should have large drainage holes. Unless absolutely necessary to protect surfaces, saucers should not be used outdoors as they inhibit proper drainage. For large containers, invest in frost-resistant materials that can stay outdoors dur-

ing the winter. Antique lead containers, stone vessels, frost-resistant terracotta, stainless steel, and some plastics will tolerate our winters if protected from standing water within.

After the basic requirements have been met, the real fun of choosing your container begins; personal preference and aesthetic judgment are the only criteria. Today, there are more container styles and materials to choose from than ever before, thanks to the availability of manmade materials; just be certain to invest in quality pots appropriate for the size of the site and the garden aesthetic. Sometimes "found objects," like sinks, bowls and tubs, lend themselves as interesting vessels. Be creative, as a few great pots always have more impact than several mediocre ones. Price does not necessarily reflect quality; however, in the clay-pot market you should expect to pay more for better pots. Many handcrafted, antique clay vessels have become sought-after treasures handed down by generations of gardeners. Sometimes they are even more valuable than what's planted in them!

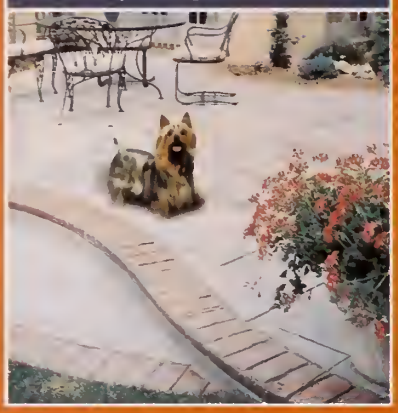
Containers are often used to highlight specific plants or the garden aesthetic. For example, you can choose a container whose colors and textures complement or contrast with the plant inside it. In general, ornate containers work best with simple plantings, while simple containers can succeed with more complex plantings. Choose between showcasing the vessel and showcasing the plants. If you want the assemblage of container and plants to have a "wow" factor, then strong simple container forms work best. This does not necessarily equate to large in size; small simple forms can have just as much impact as large ones.

Creative selection, a little planning, and placement of containers can lead to exciting possibilities in the garden. Don't be afraid to use your imagination!

Rhoda Maurer is the plant records supervisor at the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College. She is also the head gardener for a private estate in New Jersey and loves to write, photograph and lecture. You can visit the Scott Arboretum's website at *www.scottarboretum.org*.



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MOVING IN

By Adam Levine



Adam Levine, a frequent contributor to *Green Scene*, is nurturing a new garden at his home in Media, PA.

After gardening for more than 20 years I still hesitate (sometimes for months or years) every time I have to plant anything. Is this the right exposure, the right soil, the right plant? Is there something else that might do better here? Years of indecisiveness have taught me that the only way to get plants in the ground is to have my gardening partner, Tom (a talented landscape designer), tell me exactly where to dig the holes. One added benefit of this division of labor is that I can always blame him if the plants don't thrive.

Fortunately, creating a new garden, which Tom and I are now doing, often begins with destroying what the previous owner left behind, and I am an expert at this phase of horticultural work. The hesitancy I feel when I nurture plants disappears when I'm trying to kill them. I'm not only good at ripping and chopping and hacking plants out; I do the work neatly, since the goal is to leave behind a clean slate on which to write our own gardening dreams. Destroying things appeals to the boy in me, but as a new homeowner I've found that it is a great way to assert my property rights, to show the world that this is my garden now, to make or unmake according to my whim and my will.

Last spring (with Tom's approval), I banged out 40 feet of awkward concrete sidewalk and hundreds of square feet of unwanted grass. Plant by plant and row by row, I whacked out a hundred feet of privet hedge that hemmed in our small lot on two sides. Several trees on the property were on our hit-list as well. Our new home faces due south, and after spending the previous 10 years in a part-shade situation, we were salivating at the possibilities of a full-sun garden. Large trees on neighboring properties already cast shade on part of the garden, and to maximize the sunlight we planned to remove several smaller specimens on our side of the fence.

One of these, a Japanese maple, was too large to remove without a chainsaw, a tool that I've always been afraid to use (which, considering the efficiency of my destructiveness, is probably a good thing). A friend who promised to cut it down for us never appeared, and then when spring came, the tree leafed out and looked pretty, and we began to have second thoughts. Our hesitation amounted to a stay of execution. The tree still stands.

The common advice to new homeowners is to live with their landscape for a year before making any major changes. Clearly, Tom and I ignored that advice. After many years' experience, we know what we like and especially what we dislike. We filled a 20-yard dumpster with the latter category, with no regrets. But as eager as we've been to make our mark on this property—to make it ours—I'm sure we would have regretted removing the trees.

Last year, as spring turned into summer, we found that we had more than enough sunlight in the garden to grow just about anything we wanted. And as the summer turned dry and hot we were grateful for the maple's shade. We were also grateful for the surprising beauty of another small tree, an old rose-of-Sharon, which we decided to give a reprieve. Perhaps in gratitude, it covered itself with purple blossoms for months.



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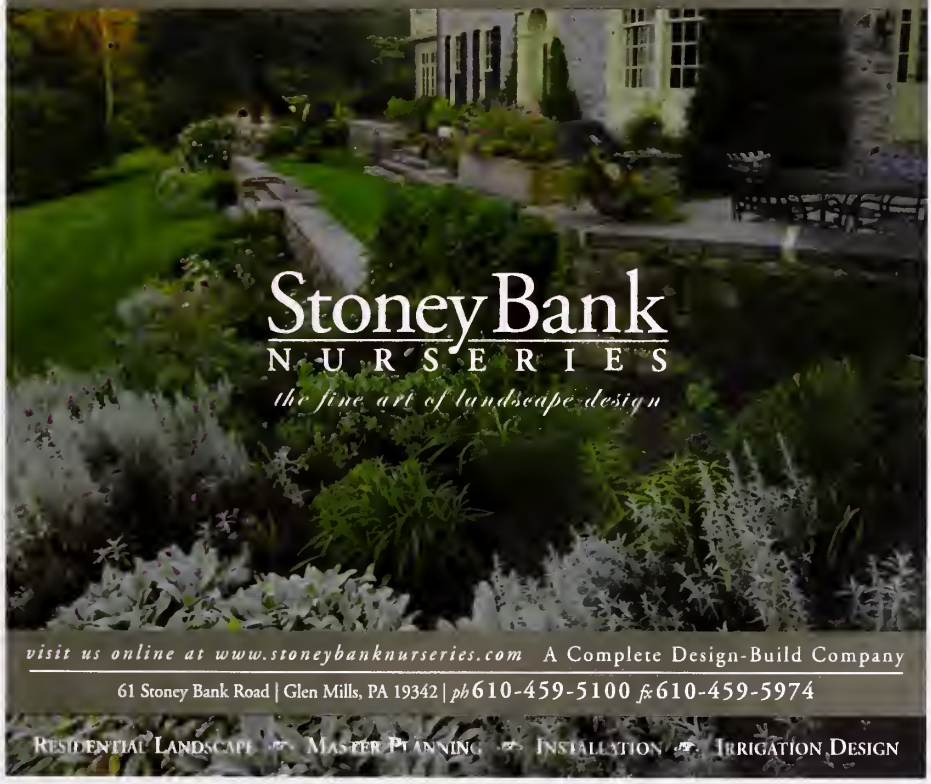
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By Sylvia R. Lin

EVERY YEAR AT FLOWER SHOW TIME, I'M ASKED BY FRIENDS, "AREN'T YOU TIRED OF EXHIBITING YOUR PLANTS YEAR AFTER YEAR?" THE ANSWER IS NO. I STILL *LOVE* IT.



I attended my first Philadelphia Flower Show several decades ago and, after looking at all the beautiful plants, was in total awe. Many of the plants were from estate gardens and included specimens I had never seen before.

After seeing these exhibits year after year, I secretly wished that some day I could enter the Show myself. Years later, I took a chance and made my wish come true. My first exhibit was a rabbit's foot fern (*Davallia fejeenis*). I was petrified about entering, but once at the Show, everyone was so helpful and showed me what to do. Later that day, after the judges had completed their work, I couldn't believe that my plant won a white ribbon—an honorable mention. What a thrill! Once I experienced the excitement of exhibiting and winning a ribbon, I was truly hooked.

The Philadelphia Flower Show is more than a competition of plants and designs; it's about camaraderie and spirit. After many years of exhibiting, I still find the opening day just as exciting as I did that first year (and yes, I still get butterflies in my stomach). Better still, seeing my Flower Show friends is exhilarating. These relationships were made years ago and now are treasured old friends: Peggy, Sandy, Alan, Lee, and many more.

During the remainder of Show week, there is an aura of energy at the Convention Center. On any given day you can experience everything from watching the judging, attending interesting lectures, enjoying lunches at the Reading Terminal Market, and just browsing and being with friends. At the close of the Show, it's like the day after Christmas when the cleanup begins. The anticipation of next year is in the air, and you're already thinking about what plants will be ready to exhibit 12 months from now.

You, too, may have a little green treasure at home waiting for its big day at the Flower Show. So I say, "Try it, you'll like it!" It's just so much fun.

Known for her perfect begonias and succulent plants, Sylvia Lin is a 10-time winner of the Flower Show's "Horticultural Sweepstakes" (awarded for most overall points in the horticulture classes) and a multiple winner of the Edith Wilder Scott, Far Out Cactus, and Susie Walker awards.



Above: **The author today.**

Right: **Sylvia in the 1970s.**



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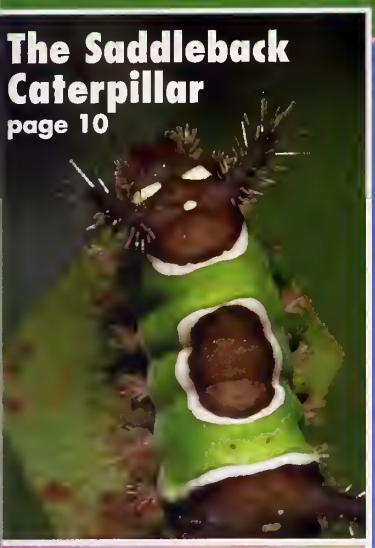
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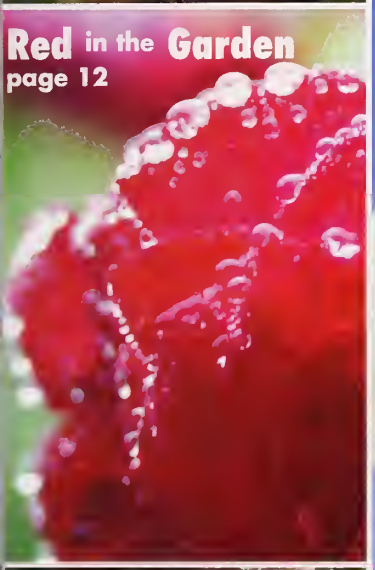
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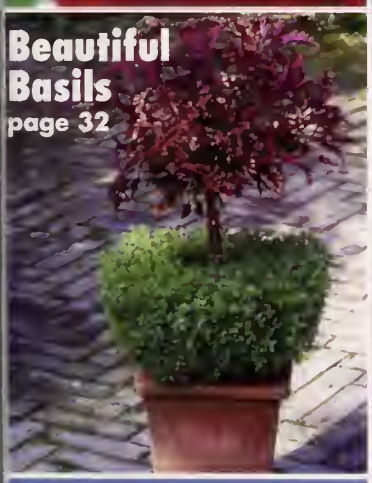
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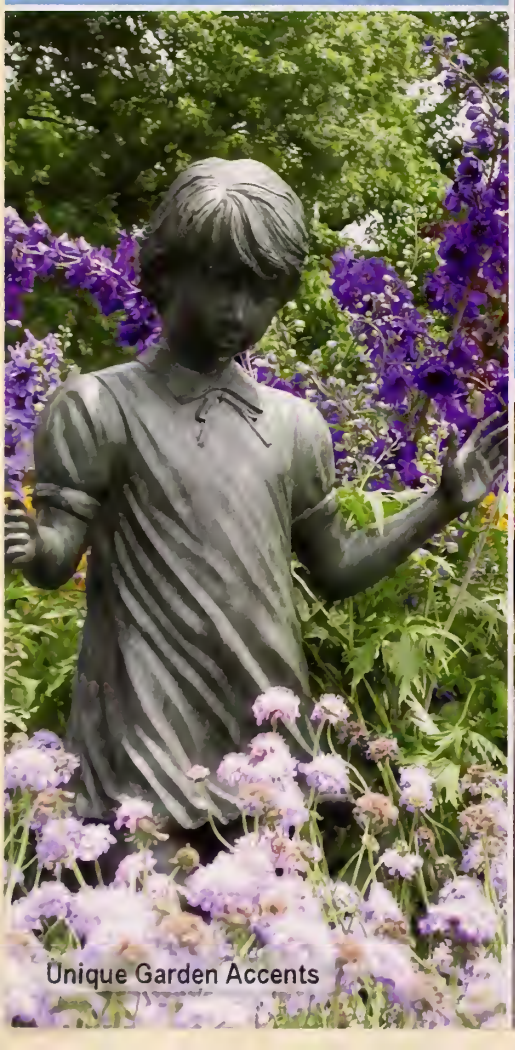
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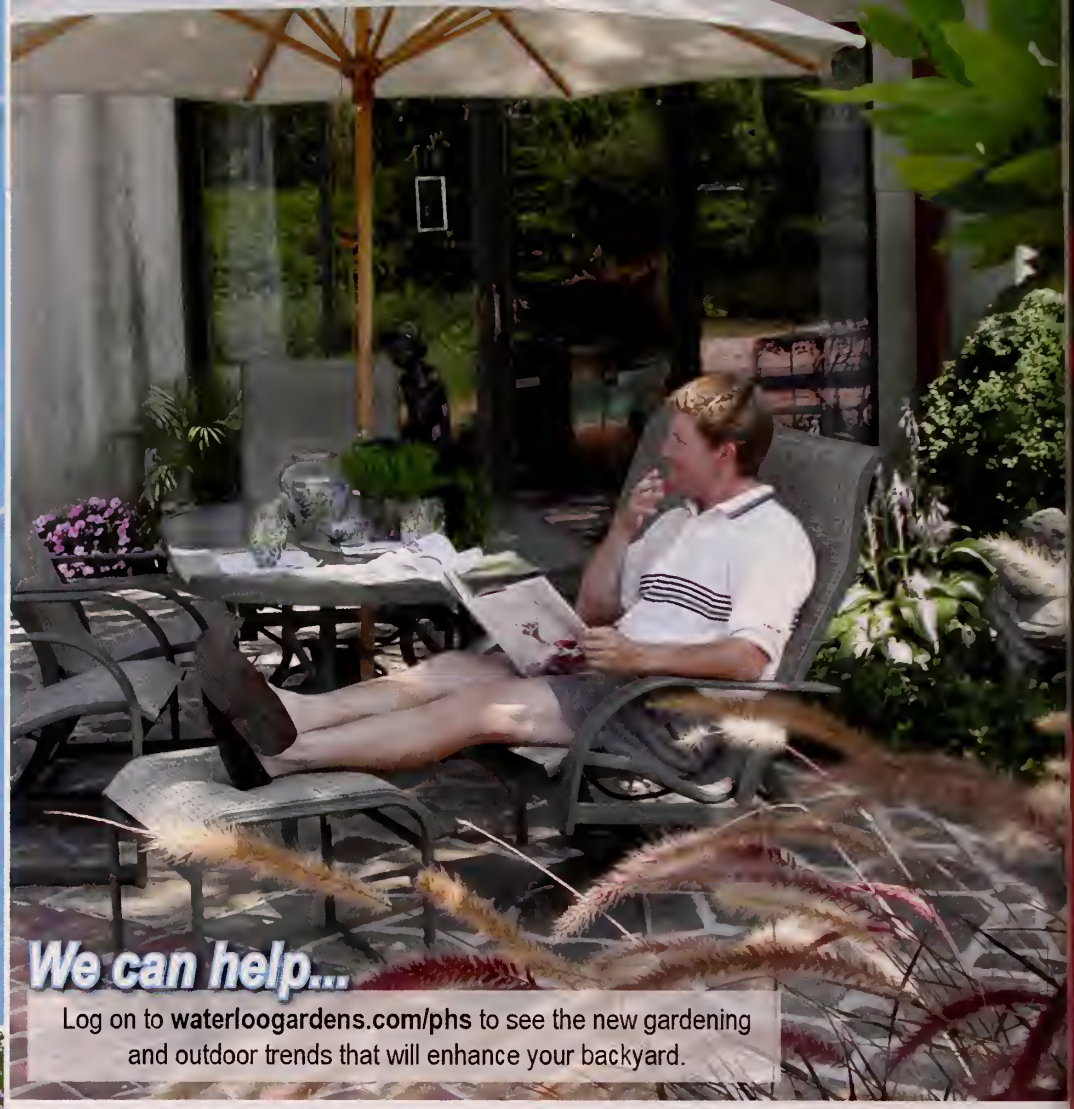
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Magnolias are a sure sign of warmer days to come and, happily, there are plenty of species that thrive in the Delaware Valley. Rhoda Maurer reveals several that are springtime show-stoppers in our area.

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Nothing gives meals that fresh, summery taste like basil straight from the garden. But basil is more than just a good garnish. Jo Ann Gardner explains how the heavenly herb is in demand for aesthetic purposes, too. Also, be sure to save the recipe for Jo Ann's favorite basil pesto—simple steps for a delish dish.



FEATURES

12 Red Alert

There's no more difficult flower color to integrate into the garden than red. It's bold and opinionated, and, to make matters worse, there are different shades that stridently clash with each other. Fortunately, color expert Sydney Eddison puts the lid on this *hue* 'n' cry, and shows us how to tastefully incorporate red into any garden setting.

18 Gone Country

Friends and family must have given Kathy and Marvin Andersen puzzled looks when they announced they were starting a farm. Now, a few years later, their 40-acre property is a fully functioning example of "community supported agriculture," providing both food and fun to neighbors in northern Chester County. Join PHS President Jane Pepper as she ventures out to Charlestown, PA, to see these farm fixin's up close.



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Main cover photo by Rhoda Maurer

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LITTLE STORIES







As I look at this issue of *Green Scene*, I mostly see the little stories behind the big articles. For example, I have long made the error, like many folks, of mismatching red flowers in the garden. It's a common enough *faux pas*. First, you buy a lovely deep pink or crimson flower at your local nursery and then place it next to a scarlet or salmon-colored one. Suddenly, disaster strikes! Your beautiful garden has turned into a shrill, jarring cacophony of color. To make matters worse, few of us have the bravado to do the right thing and rip out one of the plants and restore balance to the garden. In my case, I fret, "Whatever shall I do?" and try not to faint on the front lawn.

One answer is to call in the experts. I've been lucky enough to catch a few lectures by the garden color guru Sydney Eddison; then, last year, I asked her to write an article on using the color orange in the garden (February 2005). So I asked Sydney if she ever found herself "seeing red" in the garden, and, indeed, she had on numerous occasions. And thus this tale of the two reds was born, featuring Sydney's explanations on why "orange-reds" never, ever should be mixed with "blue-reds." This may sound confusing now, but after you read the piece, your garden will be a happier, far more harmonious place.

And then there is the magnolia story. Last April, I gathered the Publications Committee to PHS headquarters for our annual meeting. This group is made up largely of horticulture professionals who volunteer their time to advise me on everything from possible article topics to tips on magazine design and layout. At the end of last year's meeting, Rhoda Maurer—who is the plant records supervisor at the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College and writes a regular column for *Green Scene*—grabbed me by the arm.

"Pete, you must come see the magnolias!" she intoned.

"Sure," I replied, casually. "I'll stop by Scott in the next week or two."

"No!" she shot back, excitedly. "You must come see them now. Right this *minute*. And don't forget your camera!"

Okay, maybe I'm exaggerating that exchange a little, but I've learned over the years that when a horticulturist tells you to go see a group of blooming plants ASAP, you should heed their advice and hit the road. Well, Rhoda was right. I went to Swarthmore the next day and was simply blown away by the stunning collection of magnolias there. Better still, it was just about peak bloom, so the college campus was a fantasyland of billowing flowers, color, and movement. It was one of those garden epiphanies that are hard to forget, and it served as the impetus for Rhoda's informative article in this issue.

An equally impressive road trip came late last summer, when PHS President Jane Pepper asked me to accompany her to photograph a garden in northern Chester County. There, among the rolling hills of Charlestown, sits the Andersen family farm, owned by horticulturist Kathy Andersen, her husband Marvin, and their family. The farm is a CSA, which means *community supported agriculture*. The premise of a CSA is that it's a working farm in which residents can buy "subscriptions" (pre-payments to the farmer) and receive fresh, wholesome produce all summer long.

The Andersen farm is one CSA that is not only thriving, but is going like gangbusters. Their subscriptions are sold out every year, and son Bill has just purchased an adjoining property where he and his wife plan to launch a dairy farming operation. In addition, the farm's overflow produce is sold each Saturday at a farmer's market in nearby Phoenixville. In all, this is a truly inspiring story and a great demonstration of how the CSA model is revolutionizing agriculture in our increasingly crowded region.

I'd also like to direct your attention to the back page of this issue, where you'll find information on something called *Edens Lost & Found*. That is the name of a four-hour TV documentary that will begin airing across the nation this spring on PBS stations. The series will spotlight one-hour each on Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago *and* our own Philadelphia—four cities that are in the process of re-inventing themselves, partly through environmental solutions. Our hometown segment will air on May 25th and features PHS and the work of its Philadelphia Green program, as well as the efforts of community groups, city government, and nonprofits like the Mural Arts Program.

Behind the lens, filmmaker Harry Wiland and his crew filmed in the city for nearly two years, capturing many of Philly Green's projects, as well as the inspiring residents, volunteers, and city officials who help support the work. Suffice it to say, we're very proud of our starring role in this landmark documentary. (Learn more at *www.edenslostandfound.org*.)

So program your VCR, turn on your Tivo, or just clear your calendar for May 25th and stay home to watch some inspiring television. It's been an exciting process to see this film being made, and it will be all the more thrilling to share it with you. Please tune in.

Pete Brown

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A SIBERIAN JOURNEY

Have you ever fallen out of love?



By Ray Rogers

With a specific plant or group of them, that is? I have, and it happened after a long love affair that carried me to the heights of joy and the depths of misery... horticulturally speaking. Bearded irises (frequently but incorrectly referred to as "German" irises or *Iris germanica*), held me in their thrall for decades. I enjoyed their splendid colors in my gardens and in many others, but it was the ribbons and trophies that bore my name on many show entries that kept me going back for more. This was true despite the many shortcomings of these plants: borers, soft rot, leaf spot, top-heavy stems, short bloom season, uninteresting or unsightly foliage.

So, after all those years, all of my bearded irises eventually ended up on the compost pile.

But soon after I started growing the bearded sorts, I also discovered the Siberian irises, which enthusiasts describe as "beardless." Their flowers lack the fuzzy, caterpillar-like structures on the lower three petals, but that's not all they're missing, namely most of the faults of the beardeds. True, their butterfly-like flowers last about as long as April snow, but I would argue that their rather brief bloom season is their only drawback.

About six years ago I discovered the allure of the tetraploid sorts, the hybrids that carry twice as many chromosomes in their cells as the original species. Simply put, their double genetic load makes their flowers bigger, their stems stronger, and their leaves more lush. So of course I wanted to get my hands on some.

I acquired starter plants of 'Coronation Anthem' and 'Over in Gloryland' at a Garden State Iris Society auction, and they grew well from the



'Over in Gloryland' exhibits the traits of a great tetraploid Siberian: robust growth, strong stems, and broad-shouldered flowers that retain the butterfly-like quality of the original species.

start. Both bloomed the next year, but I knew I needed to wait until the second year to make any decisions about their garden worthiness. 'Coronation Anthem' sent up several bloomstalks, each bearing four or five buds in three places, which is a very desirable trait among modern Siberians. 'Over in Gloryland' produced as many bloomstalks, more or less, but each stem bore two flowers each. It appeared that 'Coronation Anthem' would become both a reliable garden plant and a great prospect for exhibition (all those buds and branches increased the likelihood of an entry with at least two flowers out). 'Over in Gloryland' might make a good plant as well, though it seemed a less likely generator of blue ribbons.

Years passed, and both cultivars lived up to my expectations. 'Coronation Anthem' came just shy of a big award at an iris show, while 'Over in Gloryland' bore very attractive flowers but nary a blue ribbon. But then it came time to divide the clumps, which had grown from a few initial fans (groups of leaves growing from a rhizome) to big, entangled masses that took more than a little effort to wrest out of the ground and split up into suitable-sized divisions for planting.

By this time, I was weaning myself from the beardeds and making a serious effort to grow any remaining irises for their garden worthiness instead of their promise to garner ribbons. I decided that one of the two Siberians would take pride of place in the front garden, and the other would grow with the collection of other cultivars in the less design-oriented back garden. It was a tough choice, but in the late summer of 2003 I ended up planting five pieces of 'Over in Gloryland' in the front and keeping one piece of 'Coronation Anthem' in the back.

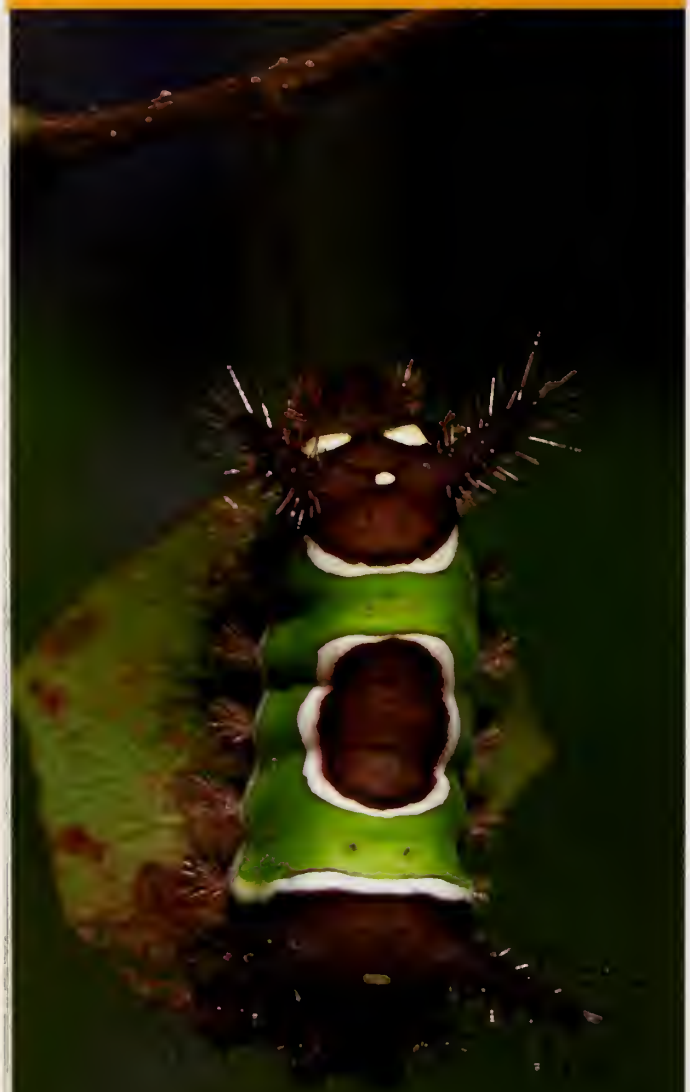
Last May into June, I couldn't stop looking at the large planting of 'Over in Gloryland', which proudly displayed its regal yet delicate blooms for a couple of weeks. 'Coronation Anthem' offered its usual abundance of flowers on show-quality stalks for nearly three weeks, so I wondered why I had chosen its partner for the front garden. Then it came to me: I definitely preferred the sumptuous *oomph* and garden appeal of 'Over in Gloryland' over the greater abundance and ribbon-winning potential of 'Coronation Anthem'.

So although the fire may have gone out for one group of irises, I still carry the torch for other members of this glorious genus. Even better, I now appreciate them more as a gardener and designer than as a ribbon hound.



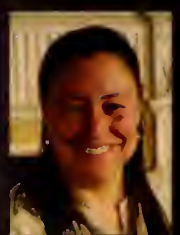
'Coronation Anthem' makes a splendid clump that blooms for up to three weeks. Happy plants may even produce a second, shorter flush of blooms a few weeks after the first one finishes.

Ray Rogers has known and grown irises of some kind, first in Pennsylvania and now in central New Jersey, since early childhood. They still catch his eye, but not his competitive heart. That he saves for the Philadelphia Flower Show.



GARDEN TERROR

An Encounter with the Saddleback Caterpillar



By Margaret Funderburg

Who knew an inch-long caterpillar could pack such a punch?

After the kind of summer when kids do the shoeless hot-foot dance to cross asphalt streets and experiment to see if an egg really will fry on the sidewalk, the weather finally broke in early September, and I was able once again to imagine working in my garden.

My first task was to pull weeds and cut back the overgrowth that earlier in the summer qualified as delightful intermingling and now merely conveyed a message of abandonment. While reaching toward one 4-foot-high-weed, I bolted upright when I felt a painful stinging sensation on my forearm. As I looked around, the first possible culprit I identified was a prickly greenbrier vine hiding in the azalea. On closer inspection my eye was drawn to the lime green and purplish-brown back of a small caterpillar on the vine. The green was a florescent hue that I'm sure was meant to scream, *"Watch Out! Amma gonna hurcha!"* Not only was the insect's color and pattern striking, but the front and rear ends (I'm not sure which was which) were also covered with spiky horns. From either side it looked like an ancient fright mask.

Being home alone and prone to dramatic thoughts, I imagined being poisoned. I carefully captured the insect in my daughter's bug box so that if I happened to collapse someone might be able to deduce the source of my ills and locate the antidote to save me.

As it happened, after only an hour of stinging and the development of a 2-inch-diameter patch of bumpy redness, I did survive and was able to find out all about my adversary by going online and Googling "lime green caterpillar sting."

Here's what I found about the saddleback caterpillar:

SIZE: 1 inch (25 mm)

COLOR: Purplish-brown body with a purplish saddle shape on its green back.

DESCRIPTION: The saddleback caterpillar has poisonous spines on four large projections (tubercles) and many smaller ones that stick out from the sides of its body. The "saddle" consists of an oval, purplish-brown spot in the middle of a green patch on the back. Saddleback caterpillars feed on the leaves of basswood, chestnut, cherry, plum, oak, and other trees and shrubs.

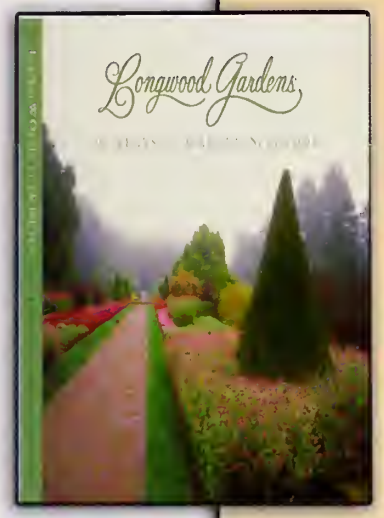
LIFE CYCLE: After turning into moths, the adults take flight in midsummer.

HABITAT: The saddleback caterpillar is a general feeder and is found on shade trees and ornamental shrubs in late summer.

TYPE OF DAMAGE: The poisonous hairs or spines are hollow and connected to underlying poison glands. Contact with them causes a burning sensation and inflammation that can be as painful as a bee sting. The irritation can last for a day or two and may be accompanied by nausea during the first few hours. Usually the site of contact reddens and swells much like a bee sting.

CONTROL: A person "stung" by a poisonous caterpillar should immediately wash the affected area to remove any insect hairs and poison that remain. An ice pack will help reduce swelling, and creams and lotions containing steroids will lessen the discomfort and promote healing. Persons known to be sensitive to insect stings should consult a physician. Stinging caterpillars rarely occur in sufficient numbers to be considered plant pests, but people who work with ornamental plants should learn to recognize them and avoid touching them.

[Information courtesy of the Virginia Cooperative Extension, www.ext.vt.edu/]

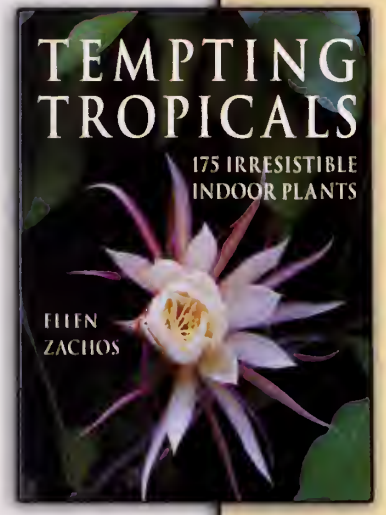


Longwood Gardens: 100 Years of Garden Splendor

by Colvin Randall

(128 pp., $19.99 : $29.99)

When Pierre du Pont bought a small farm outside Kennett Square, PA, 100 years ago, who'd have guessed it would become the luxuriant Longwood Gardens we know and love today? Join in the centennial celebration with *Longwood Gardens: 100 Years of Splendor*, a nostalgic voyage through acres of rich history. Filled with stirring, rare photos and intriguing insider knowledge, author Randall's excellent research is certainly coffee table-worthy. The deluxe slipcase edition includes a DVD with a 31-minute overview of Longwood history, as well as seven bonus films spanning the past 60 years.



An American Cutting Garden—A Primer for Growing Cut Flowers

by Suzanne McIntire (284 pp., $29.95)

Whether you're a newcomer to the cutting garden scene or an experienced expert with blooms to prove it, everyone can appreciate *An American Cutting Garden* by Suzanne McIntire. Written with the mid-Atlantic region in mind, this primer for growing cut flowers covers annuals, biennials, perennials, and bulbs. While the first part of the book gives hints on how to start your garden, the handy second half provides detailed descriptions of 200 recommended species.



Tempting Tropicals—175 Irresistible Indoor Plants

by Ellen Zachos (328 pp., $29.95)

If you've grown weary of standard native species, why not make your home a little more colorful with some *Tempting Tropicals*? Ellen Zachos' exhaustive exposé covers everything you need to know about tropicals, including container choice, humidity levels, lighting options, and propagation. Truly a plant fanatic, Zachos even provides tips for traveling with plants! If the most exotic place you visit this year is the Jersey Shore, cozy up to this guide to 175 irresistible indoor plants.

Stonescaping Idea Book

by Andrew Wormer (138 pp., $14.95)

Stones seldom receive due recognition for their ability to transform a home landscape. But with proper planning, stones can be used to create walkways and walls, seating and sculptures. Hundreds of such examples can be found in the *Stonescaping Idea Book* by Andrew Wormer. From locations all across the country, Wormer shows how homeowners have attractively utilized everything from carefully placed pavers and bricks to massive slabs and boulders. After reading the *Stonescaping Idea Book*, you'll never take granite for granted again.

100 Garden Tips and Timesavers

by Walter Chandoha (120 pp., $9.95)

Do you find there's never enough time for gardening? Walter Chandoha, a man with more than four decades of gardening experience, is here to help with *100 Garden Tips and Timesavers*. With chapters such as improving the soil, pest controls, garden design, and vegetables, there seems to be nothing Chandoha can't do. Always the environmentalist, he even offers ingenious "trash to treasure" tips like converting an old golf bag into a tool carrier and using panty hose as plant ties and drying slings. This quick and easy resource is a welcome addition to any gardening library.

—By Daniel Moise



Seeing Red

HOW to Use the COLOR RED in YOUR GARDEN



By Sydney Eddison

Red is not a hue to be taken lightly. Traditionally, it signals danger, incites revolution, and arouses passions. Even in the garden, it stirs controversy. Some gardeners hate it, but on the whole, my relationship with red has been joyful and positive. It was a thrill in the 1960s to discover red daylilies. Ever since, I have been hooked on the genus *Hemerocallis* and the color red, but I can appreciate the frustrations of those who dislike it. It usually means that, at some point, they have planted incompatible reds together or with other unsuitable color companions. The effect can be garish, as I know from experience.

The crux of the matter is color temperature. Some experts in the field of color scoff at the notion of *warm* and *cool* hues. But to artists and gardeners who use color for its visual and emotional impact, these terms make sense. Reds, oranges, and yellows are *warm* colors. They conjure up the glow of embers, flames, and the heat of the summer sun, while blues, greens, and purples are *cool* colors, evocative of ocean depths, forest shade, and icy mountain tops. But here's the rub: every color in the spectrum has warm versions and cool versions. While red is essentially a warm color, some reds are warmer than others. A red with orange in it is the hottest of the hot, but a red containing blue is a much cooler hue.

Other colors, like greens and yellows, are compatible throughout their temperature range, but not the reds. To compound the problem, most of us fail to look closely enough at color to see a difference between a warm red and a cool red until it's too late. However, the eye can be trained. The only necessary equipment is a simple color wheel, available for a few dollars at most art stores.

The color wheel, which is based on the progression of hues in the rainbow—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet—shows you how the hues are related to each other. And when it comes to color, the right relationship is everything. There is a comforting logic in the arrangement of hues around the circle. Red and yellow produce orange; therefore, orange belongs between its parents. In like manner, green belongs between yellow and blue, and violet between its parents, blue and red.

Though the hues on the face of the color wheel lack the subtleties of nature, they serve as a useful guide. In the rainbow, as in the world of plants, colors gradually transition into one another. On the warm side, red transitions from red-orange to orange-red to orange to yellow-orange to orange-yellow and finally, to yellow, in which no trace of red remains. On the cool side, the progression moves by degrees through red-violet to violet-red to violet to blue-violet and so forth around the circle to pure blue.

Although many of the in-between hues have no name, each one has a logical place in the continuum of color. The warm reds we call "scarlet" and "coral" belong somewhere between red and orange; likewise, cool "crimson" and "carmine" belong somewhere between red and violet. Pinks, also, have warm and cool versions, but which is which? The only way to tell is to rigorously *com-*

Left: **Tulip 'Oxford', a "warm" red.**



COOL REDS

pare colors. Artists constantly make comparisons and gardeners can do it too. Just ask yourself, "Does this pink (or red) lean toward violet, a cool color, or toward orange, a warm color?" It pays to learn the difference. The bottom line is that warm and cool versions of red and pink rarely look good together.

According to a tattered, 4 x 6 inch, loose-leaf garden notebook, my struggles with these hues began in 1961. Having recently fallen under the spell of garden phlox, I ordered half a dozen, sight unseen, from a catalog. Three turned out to be a cool red; the other three, a warm, salmon pink. Together they were a disaster. But I did learn something. After seeing them in bloom I had written, "American Beauty—red 'Augusta' would be good with purple and blue delphiniums but it's not a color to be played around with."

It would have simplified my life had I known the following rule of thumb. "Warm colors go best with other warm colors, and cool colors with cool." There is a reason for this. The root of conflict is extreme *difference.* Reds containing orange are too *different* from reds containing blue. Look at the color wheel. Orange and blue lie directly

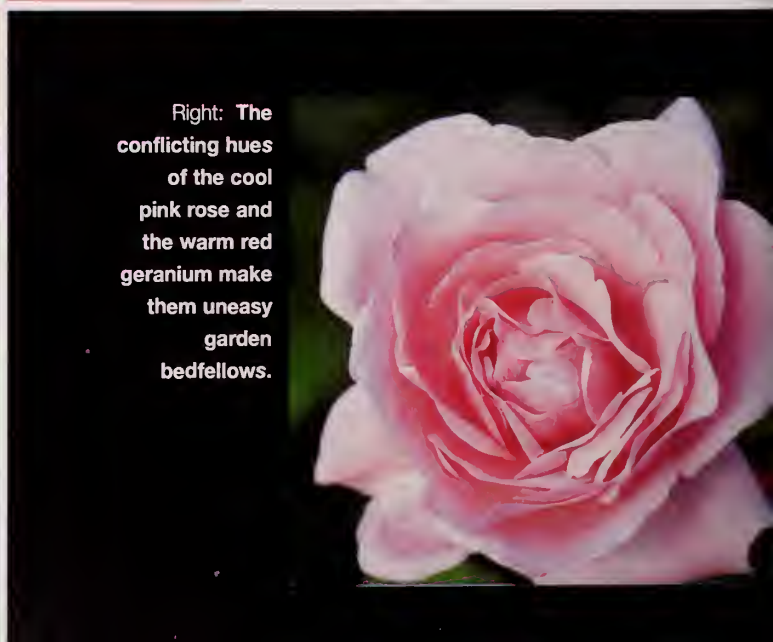


Top: **Cleome**

Middle: ***Dahlia* 'Fascination'**

Bottom: ***Verbena bonariensis***





Right: **The conflicting hues of the cool pink rose and the warm red geranium make them uneasy garden bedfellows.**

WARM REDS

across from each other, which makes them exact opposites. *Likeness*, on the other hand, is the secret of harmony. Thus, peace in the garden is best served when a close relationship links the hues. For example, coral-red, which contains orange, is lovely with peach or shrimp-pink hues, which also contain orange. But perish the thought of coral-red with orchid-pink or mauve, both of which have a blue component.

Some years after the phlox incident, I received a most generous gift—a beautiful peony called 'Coral Charm'. By this time, I knew better than to plant it with the cool red peonies in front of *Rhododendron* 'English Roseum', a pink-flowered cultivar with a blue bias (photo #10). Having nowhere to put 'Coral Charm', I dug a new bed and combined it with an early-blooming daylily. It was a marriage made in heaven! The peony went divinely with its golden-yellow partner because they share the same warm undercurrent.

Likeness is the tie that binds. The flower color we describe as "golden" is, in fact, a shade of yellow containing a breath of orange. Coral, of course, has a strong leaning in that direction. This combination of hues inspired me to experiment with warm

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Top: **Dahlias**

Middle: **'Bishop of Llandaff' dahlia**

Bottom: **Sydney Eddison's red *Hemerocallis***









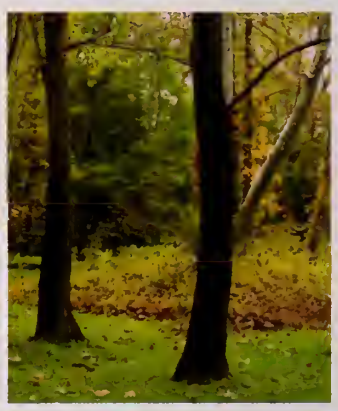
Photo courtesy of My Favorite Company

pink and coral-colored daylilies next to golden-yellow *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Zagreb'. It, too, proved a most harmonious scheme.

So there you have it. Warm with warm and cool with cool. Warm reds, like coral, go with all the other warm hues. Once you can distinguish warm versions of a color from cool, you will love red as much as I do and use both reds and pinks with pleasure and success.

Sydney Eddison is a well-known garden speaker and author. Her latest book is *Gardens to Go: Creating and Designing a Container Garden.*





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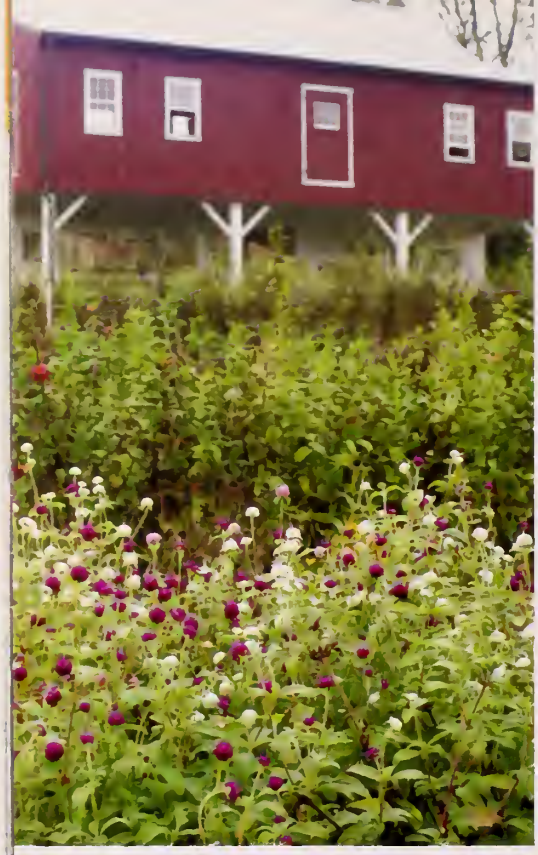
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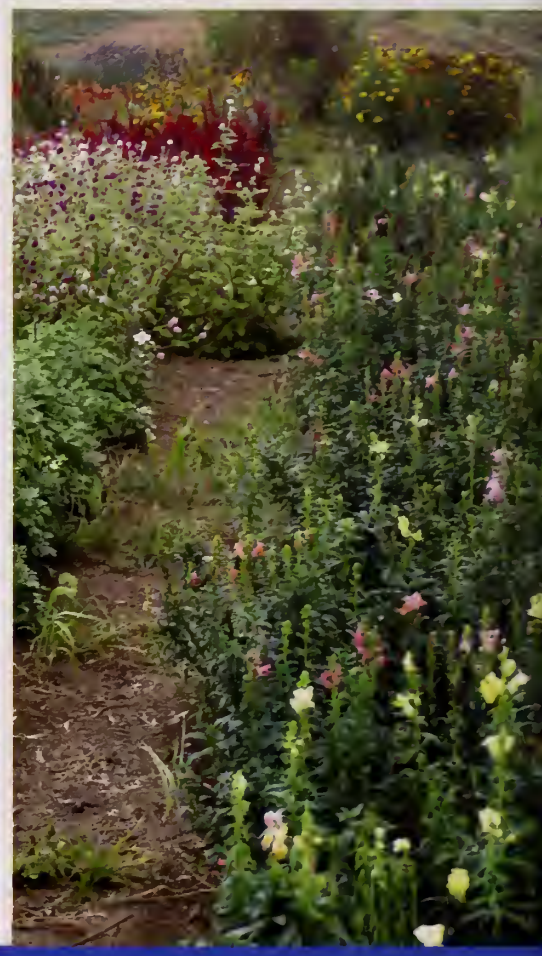












A GROWING Family

One Gardening Clan Moves from Suburbia to a Chester County Farm

Photography by Pete Prown



By Jane Pepper

Our members never cease to interest and amaze me. I have known Marvin and Kathy Andersen for more than two decades and had them settled in my mind as gardeners, but I never would have thought of them as farmers. Marvin recently retired as a doctor in Wilmington and has interests that range from medicine to trumpet playing. Kathy is one of the nation's foremost daffodil breeders and judges, with additional expertise in lilies and daylilies (she even graciously named a very tough, yellow daylily "Jane Pepper"). For as long as I have known them, the Andersens have lived in the suburbs of Wilmington.

When I saw them last spring, they revealed another side of themselves. They told me they had purchased land in Chester County with their children and had started a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm. Given that I love anything to do with growing vegetables, I invited myself out to visit in the summer.

A DAY IN THE COUNTRY

One hot, sticky, mid-September day, I set off from Philadelphia in a tropical downpour—a byproduct of Hurricane Ophelia—but by the time I turned off Route 29 into Charlestown Cooperative Farm, the sun was out. I spent a wonderful afternoon with Kathy and Marvin, their son and daughter-in-law Bill and Liz Andersen, and farmers Aimee and John Good and Sue Kilpatrick.

After purchasing the land, the Andersen family hired Aimee and John as "head farmers" in the winter of 2001. Aimee gave us a tour of the barn and plantings. The 40-acre farm includes 10 acres of vegetable gardens with another 10 acres of land devoted to corn. Aimee and John's tasks included assembling a group of local residents willing to put up cash in spring to ensure that they would each receive a basket of fresh, organic vegetables weekly from early June until mid-November.

By the summer of 2002, Charlestown Farm had 40 families, and the membership grew to 80 families in 2003. This past summer they had 150 families, each paying $575 for their membership. With 100 families on the waiting list last summer, it's clear, says son Bill, that "there's a huge, unmet demand for fresh, organic produce." Adds Aimee, "Our members tell us that not only do they want to have access to fresh produce, but they also want their kids to understand where their food comes from." Children join their parents in collecting produce each week and also in harvesting from the "pick your own" sections of the farm, where they can find raspberries and strawberries, green beans, and all kinds of herbs and flowers. The farm also has resident chickens and, starting last summer, three boarding heifers. In addition to vegetables, members can purchase farm-fresh eggs (from Charlestown and other local farmers) and pasture-raised chickens.

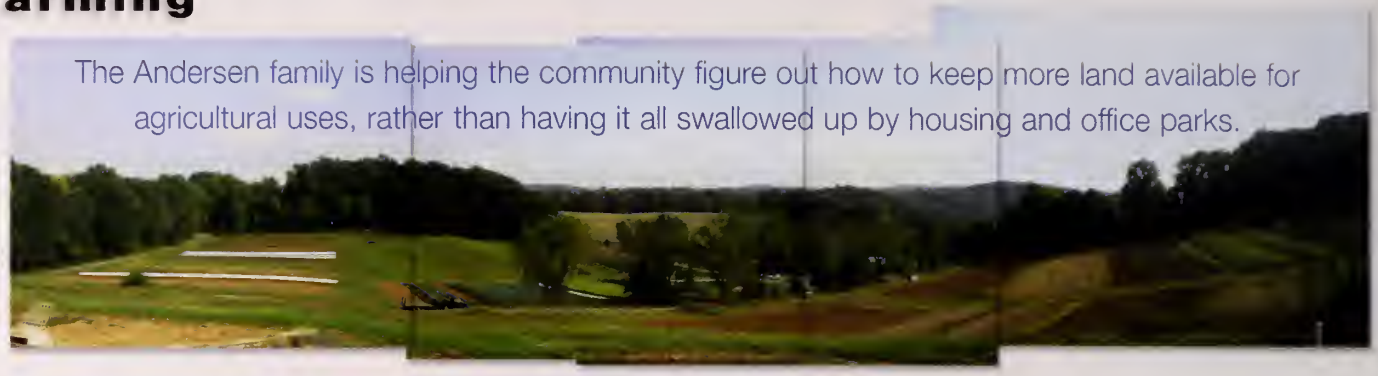
FINDING THE LAND

When I asked the Andersen family how they made this transition from suburban Wilmington to rural Chester County, Bill explained that when his mother developed health problems about five years ago, he and his wife and two of his siblings, who live in the Phoenixville area, decided it was time to try and figure out a way to entice the senior Andersens to move to their community.

One evening he sat down and wrote to his neighbors to see if anyone was interested in talking to him about selling their property. As luck would have it, the neighbor who lived right across Route 29 from the house he and Liz bought had recently entered into negotiations with an organization to sell half of their 80-acre farm. Some of it was destined to be housing; the rest would host an institution. The parents had signed the deed; the children were due to sign in the next few days. When the neighbor heard that the Andersen family wanted to keep the land open as a farm, they agreed to talk. Within months, they had a deal on the land, and Bill and Liz began the search for someone to help them start a Community Supported Agriculture farm. Meanwhile, Kathy and Marvin started talking to architects to develop concepts for their new house that would sit on the upper ridge above the vegetables and corn.



The Andersen family is helping the community figure out how to keep more land available for agricultural uses, rather than having it all swallowed up by housing and office parks.



MEET THE FARMERS

Farmers John and Aimee Good grew up in Lancaster County, and when John was in college in Massachusetts studying English, he completed his community service requirement by working on a CSA farm. When Aimee, a student in biology and environmental studies, came to visit the farm she became hooked on the concept and signed on to work there for a season. Later, John left his job with the Forest Service and joined Aimee at the farm, which had not only a vegetable garden for members, but also a range of animals (chickens, cows, and pigs) as well as a bakery and an orchard. Aimee and John loved the farm lifestyle in Massachusetts, but their hearts were with their families in Pennsylvania, so when they heard a new CSA was to start near Phoenixville, they didn't waste any time coming down to check out the possibilities.

Their first season as head farmers at Charlestown Farm was daunting. When they arrived, the land was a series of soybean fields, so they had to work quickly to get crops going early in the spring, barely staying ahead of their carefully planned schedule. That year, once it was time to start harvesting, they had to carry all the produce to a barn a short distance away for preparation and distribution. Changes came with time however, and the following season the barn, where they wash the produce and get it ready for pickup, was in business. Each year, the Andersens add equipment and amenities, such as a manure spreader and a walk-in cooler.

One of the biggest challenges CSA farmers face is producing just the right amount of the right produce to satisfy the appetites of their members. Aimee and John spend hours and hours each winter researching crops and attending meetings with fellow CSA farmers to get the latest information on new varieties. One big winner in recent summers has been 'Jericho', a Romaine lettuce that resists heat and drought, allowing farmers to offer lettuce until mid-August, weeks after most lettuces have bolted or turned to mush. When I visited in mid-September, one section of the farm looked just beautiful, with the blues of collard greens mixed with bright green and red fall lettuces and crinkly 'Savoy' cabbages.

Aimee and John start all the seedlings for the farm. When I asked how many, Marvin Andersen guessed at "one million," which sounded incredible, but when we counted up the pepper plots alone, Aimee estimated 2,400 pepper seedlings just as a start. Even if the total wasn't really one million, I can understand why it seemed that way to Marvin.

At Charlestown Farm, they garden organically and use insect-friendly products, such as Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). They also make extensive use of polyester row covers, which not only protect crops from inclement weather in spring and fall, but they also

continued on page 22

Resources

Although the Andersens cannot accommodate additional members at the moment, they are more than willing to offer advice and support to anyone who might be interested in starting their own CSA. Here is more information on this topic (with Liz's commentary on the sites).

- ***www.charlestowncooperativefarm.org*** is the official website for the Andersen's farm.
- ***www.localharvest.org*** lists CSAs and farmers' markets nationwide, and it is searchable by zip code. The listing is free, and most of the local CSAs have registered.
- ***www.buylocalpa.org*** is the website for the Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaign, a nationwide project to encourage consumption of local foods. Originally, the site and program were limited to farms selling near Philadelphia, but now all area farms can be listed on the site. You can find more information about the national campaign at ***www.foodroutes.org***.
- ***www.pasafarming.org*** is the website for PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture. It has limited consumer information, but Liz suggests readers might find it interesting for background information.
- ***www.phoenixvillefarmersmarket.org***



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keep out pests that can ruin a crop, such as flea beetles and cabbage white butterflies. To cut down on soil-born pests, the farmers methodically practice crop rotation. For nutrition, they use aged mushroom soil from local growers and also sow cover crops, which they turn into the soil in early spring.

A GROWING PROPOSITION

Clearly, Charlestown Farm is a family affair, and, although I met less than half the family members involved in this enterprise, I sense that everyone has a role. Marvin's roles include various projects related to the equipment. As we walked around, he also designated himself as the official "cleaner outer" of the bird boxes. Kathy had the enormous task of moving thousands of daffodils from their Wilmington garden before the soil froze last fall. And grandson Charlie, a member of the next generation, not only succeeded in attracting a state grant to build a hoop greenhouse, but he's the one who grows and sells acres of corn.

Bill and Liz meanwhile, not only manage the CSA, but they are also planning for the future. They recently added one more field to their own property across Route 29, which has more dramatic contours than Charlestown Farm and therefore is unsuitable for growing vegetables. They plan to restore the land for grazing and add a dairy operation that they hope they can manage along the lines of the vegetable CSA farm. Charlestown also sells vegetables and herbs to Restaurant Alba, a local BYOB that has been drawing rave reviews (7 King Street, Malvern, PA, 610-644-4009).

On a broader scale, the Andersen family is helping the community figure out how to keep more land available for agricultural uses, rather than having it all swallowed up by housing and office parks. Bill and Liz were key to the development of the Phoenixville Farmers Market, which now operates every Saturday from 9 AM to 1 PM in downtown Phoenixville from June until November. One weekend in September, after my trip to the farm, I visited the market and bought some of the best chicken sausages I have ever tasted; at the next stand over, Aimee and John were busy selling Charlestown produce. I took home some salad turnips, which were good in a salad, but I liked them even better after I baked them to eat with the sausage and beets, also from Charlestown Farm. No question about it, there's nothing quite like farm-fresh produce. And it was exciting for me to see the Andersen family embarking on a new adventure.





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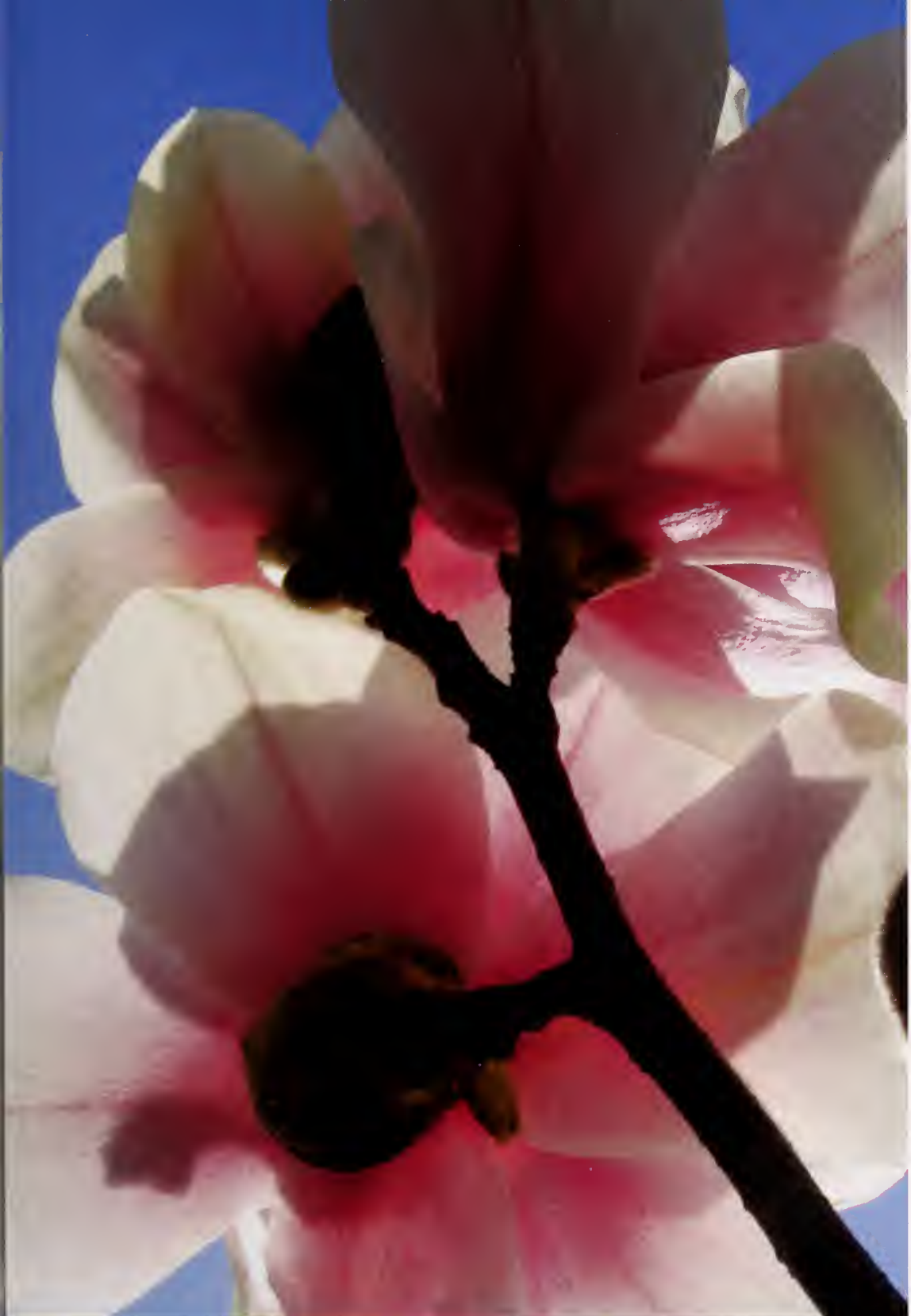


MAGICAL

Above: ***M. sieboldii***

When I was a student of horticulture in Washington State many years ago, I first learned to appreciate magnolias. There, throughout the neighborhoods of Seattle, home gardeners had planted countless specimens of *Magnolia* × *soulangeana*. Each spring, I would watch with unabashed joy as these trees broke through winter's rain-soaked hold on the Pacific Northwest. The memory of those spring delights has guided my travels to Europe and the southern hemisphere in search of these wonderful plants. But right here in the Delaware Valley, where spring is pure magic, magnolias are a thrilling sign of the season's arrival, bursting into bloom after a long, cold winter.

The *Magnolia* genus (named after French botanist Pierre *Magnol*, 1638-1715) encompasses deciduous and evergreen shrubs and trees, as well as an unusual flower suggesting its primitive relationship to the oldest of all flowering plant families. Indeed, many experts believe that only the conifers extend further back into antiquity.[1] Found throughout eastern North America and Central



MAGNOLIAS

Above: ***M.* 'Candy Cane'**

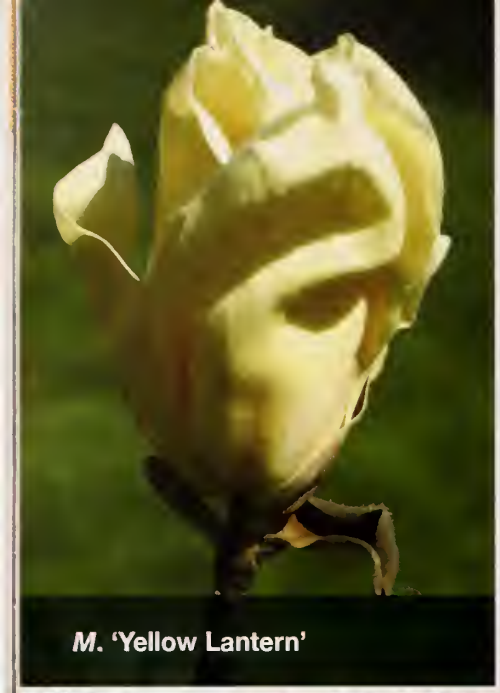
Photos by Rhoda Maurer and Pete Prown

America to southern Brazil and temperate and tropical Asia, magnolias have adapted to a wide range of growing conditions. In the Delaware Valley, our USDA Zone 6b/7a is perfect for growing many magnolias with a minimum of care once established. Because the genus encompasses more than 120 species, this article will focus on select deciduous varieties suitable for our region.

Most magnolia maladies result from poor selection, a poor site, or late frost damage. The native climate of each magnolia is a good guide to its winter hardiness. For instance, *Magnolia campbellii* comes from the Himalayas and prefers cool summers and mild winters, so it should not be expected to do well here. However, some of the latest Jury hybrids from New Zealand, using *Magnolia* × *soulangeana* as the female parent, might prove to be hardy here (*Magnolia* 'Vulcan', *M.* 'Black Tulip' and



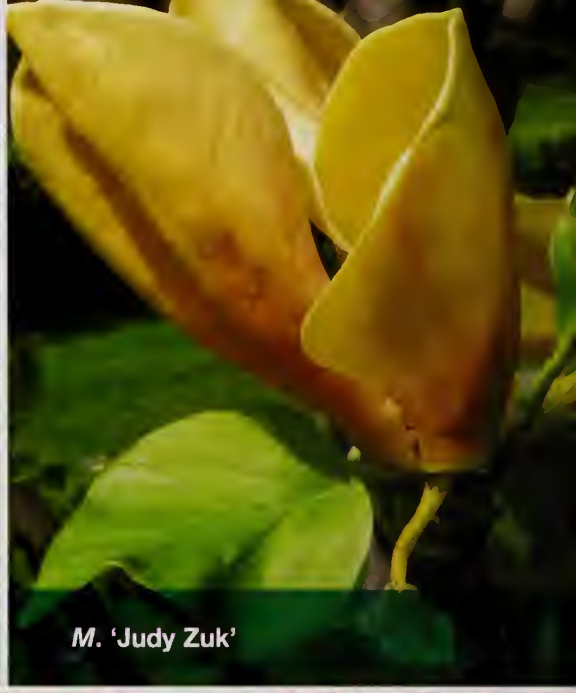
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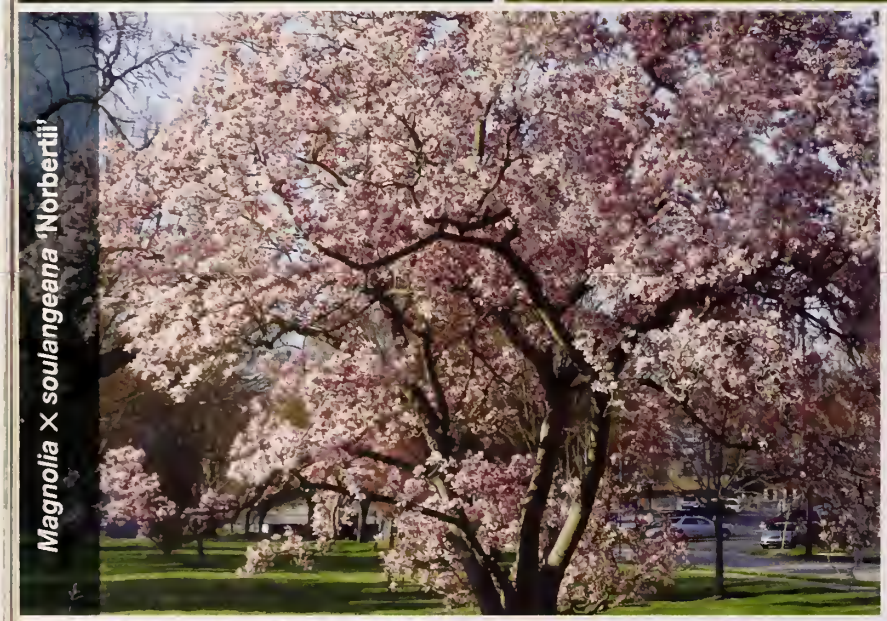
M. 'Yellow Lantern'



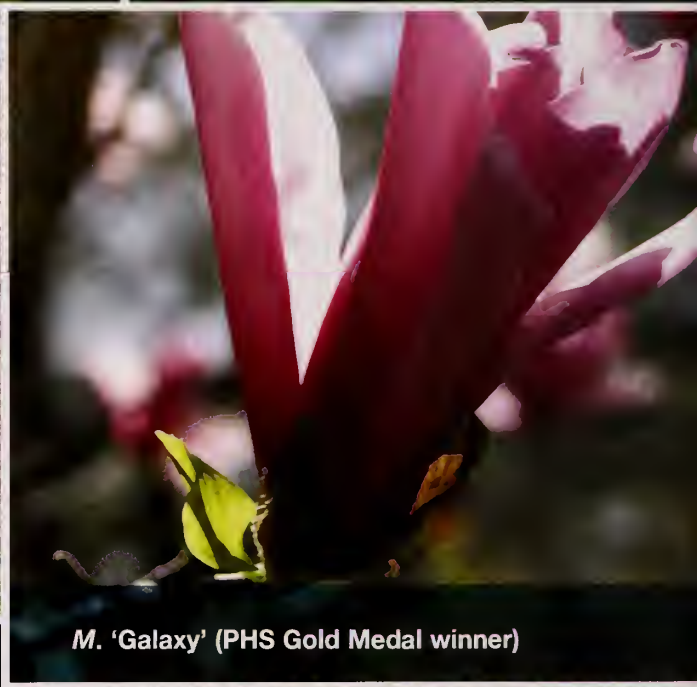
Magnolia × *kewensis* 'Wada's Memory'



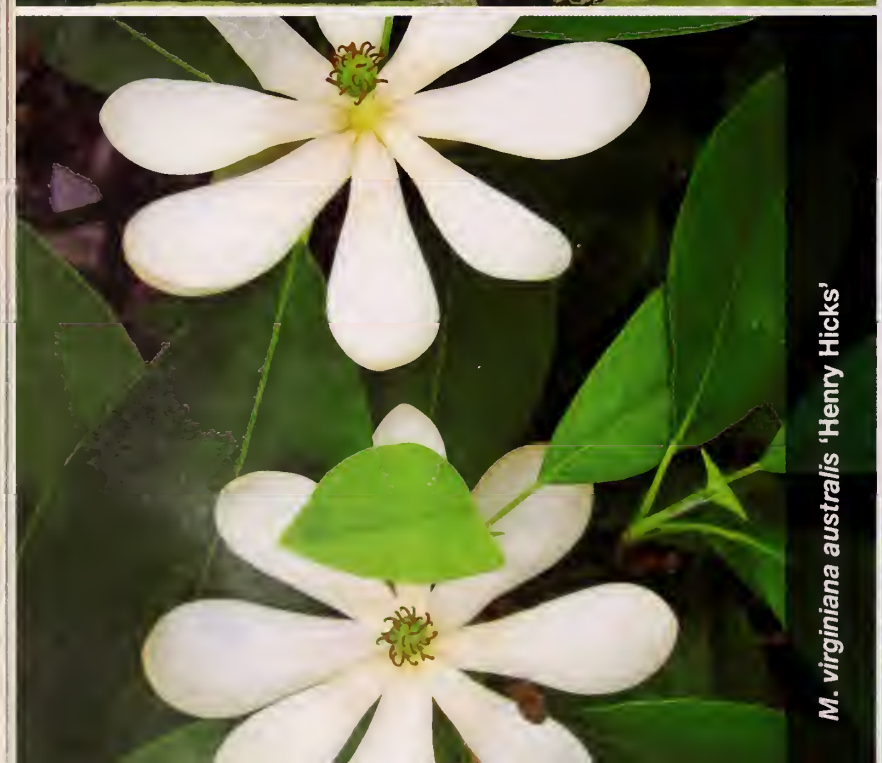
M. 'Judy Zuk'



Magnolia × *soulangeana* 'Norbertii'



M. 'Galaxy' (PHS Gold Medal winner)



M. virginiana australis 'Henry Hicks'



M. kobus

M. 'Felix Jury'). Certainly, magnolias adapted to hot summers and cold winters will do well in the Delaware Valley. But bear in mind that any magnolia will decline if planted in a site with poor drainage except for *M. virginiana* and its cultivars; they simply do not fair well in compacted or persistently wet soils.

Each magnolia has its own beauty and charm, making it difficult to choose a favorite. The old-fashioned *Magnolia* × *soulangeana*, or saucer magnolia, is what most people are familiar with. Their large blossoms vary from almost pure white to pink and violet to near red, while some are bi-colored. The original cross of *Magnolia denudata* with *M. liliiflora*, back in 1820, resulted in a floriferous, wide spreading tree. Clones of *Magnolia* × *soulangeana* have been made by hybridizers all over the world. Second- and third-generation hybrids contribute to the complexity of the color range, and most are medium-sized trees appropriate for home gardeners.

For the largest, nearly clean white flower, *M.* × *soulangeana* 'Brozzonii' offers a blossom infused with rose streaks up the middle of each tepal (a term used when the sepals and petals of a flower are indistinguishable). The Gresham hybrid, *M.* 'Candy Cane', has an upright habit with white blooms brushed pink. The Morris Arboretum has a beautiful specimen of *M.* × *soulangeana* 'Norbertii', a densely branched specimen with reddish-purple flowers that glow in the evening light. A recent addition to the Scott Arboretum is *M.* 'Paul Cook', a vigorous, upright grower with large white flowers tinted lavender-pink, measuring 11 inches in diameter.

Named after the secretaries of the U.S. National Arboretum, the De Vos and Kosar hybrids offer the gardener smaller versions of *Magnolia* × *soulangeana*: *M.* 'Ann', 'Betty, 'Jane', 'Judy,' 'Pinkie', 'Randy,' 'Ricki' and 'Susan'. Crosses of the purple *Magnolia lilliflora* cultivars with *Magnolia stellata* cultivars, these shrubby trees mature at approximately 15 to 18 feet tall by 20 to 30 feet wide.

Some of the earliest magnolias to bloom in our area are *Magnolia salicifolia*, *M. stellata*, *M. kobus*, *M. denudata* and their hybrids. While many of these magnolias look small in the nursery, they grow into medium-sized trees and require ample room to mature. At Scott, we have a beautiful specimen of *M. stellata* 'Centennial' that has reached 20 x 24 feet after 32 years. In public gardens in the Delaware Valley, you can find mature *Magnolia* × *kewensis* 'Wada's Memory', a hybrid between *Magnolia kobus* and *M. salicifolia*. It grows vigorously upright and produces fragrant white flowers each year around Easter, a bloom time that makes it vulnerable to spring frosts. *Magnolia* × *loebneri* 'Leonard Messel' (*M. kobus* × *M. stellata*) is a less vigorous clone, has soft pink flowers, and works well in smaller gardens. In Swarthmore, PA, many examples of *Magnolia denudata*, a large tree to 40 feet with ivory tepals, grow on residential properties. At the Scott Arboretum, we have a very upright clone recognized by John Hillier and the International Magnolia Society as worth naming as a cultivar.

continued on next page

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M. 'Ann'



M. 'Ivory Chalice'



M. stellata 'Centennial'

Spring weather, notoriously unpredictable, poses a challenge for magnolias in the Delaware Valley, since late frosts can damage emerging buds. For this reason—and for color variety—Scott Arboretum has begun adding yellow magnolias to its collection, since most of them bloom after our average last frost date.

Some of the first yellow hybridization began more than 40 years ago at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Eva Maria Sperber, along with Lola Koerting and Doris Stone, selected *Magnolia acuminata*, a North American native, to cross with *M. liliiflora* and *M. denudata* from Asia in hopes of developing a hybrid with exceptional hardiness, tolerance to a variety of soil conditions, and yellow flower color.

Perhaps the best-known result of their work, *Magnolia* 'Elizabeth' (named after Elizabeth Scholtz, former director of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden) is a good, small tree that grows to 25 feet with clear, pale, primrose-yellow flowers opening before the leaves. Further crosses have produced a diverse group of yellow-flowering magnolias. *M.* 'Yellow Bird' flowers bloom as the leaves emerge on a pyramidal-shaped tree. *M.* 'Woodsman' has an artistic complement of flower colors—purple buds open to chartreuse blooms tinged with yellow and purple—but the plant lacks good form. More recent introductions include *M.* 'Lois' (BBGRC 1160) and, named for another former director of BBG, *M.* 'Judy Zuk' (BBGRC 1164), which is the hot plant in the magnolia world now because of its intense, very late-blooming yellow flowers and upright form.

continued on next page

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The work of August Kehr and Joe McDaniel has produced yet more yellow magnolias. Some of my favorites include *M.* 'Daybreak', a PHS Gold Medal winner with a narrow, upright habit and fragrant rose-pink, flushed yellow flowers. *M.* 'Sunburst', an upright tree that reaches 30 feet, produces an abundance of deep canary-yellow flowers. *M.* 'Sundance' is a fast-growing, medium-sized tree with barium-yellow flowers, while *M.* 'Sun Ray' has larger flowers and blooms later.

Phil Savage of Michigan and David Leach of Ohio have developed magnolias that stand up to the chilly temperatures of the upper Midwest, so they are safe bets for our region. *M.* 'Ivory Chalice' has narrow, goblet-shaped, ivory-yellow flowers that retain their shape until the tepals fall. *M.* 'Yellow Lantern' always intrigues visitors with early, tulip-shaped, pale yellow flowers. *M.* 'Golden Endeavour' is a smaller, rounded-crown tree to 20 feet. *M.* 'Gold Star' has yellow, star-shaped flowers that take after its pollen parent, *Magnolia stellata* 'Rubra'. Popular in Europe and New Zealand, *M.* 'Butterflies' offers a compact, upright habit on a medium-sized tree; its deep yellow flowers have red stamens.

With saturated pink to magenta flowers, hybrids of *M. liliiflora* 'Nigra' × *M. sprengeri* 'Diva' present a colorful show in the Delaware Valley. *Magnolia* 'Galaxy' has a pyramidal habit, while M. 'Spectrum' has an oval canopy and larger individual flowers (both were raised by William Kosar at the U.S. National Arboretum). At the Scott Arboretum, these bloom after the *M.* × *soulangiana* but before most yellows.

While the majority of magnolias flower best in full sun, some selections from Asia do better in light shade, since they grow as understory plants in their native environment. The nodding flowers of *M. sieboldii* are best enjoyed from below, such as on a hillside, atop a wall, or where people sit. This small tree has an almost large-shrub-like habit, and the white flowers contrast with the central red staminal cone.

With their singular beauty and endless variety, it is no surprise that magnolias have such a long, romantic history of cultivation. They have been documented in gardens as early as A.D. 650, when Buddhist monks planted *Magnolia denudata* at temples for the symbolic purity of its stunning white flowers[2]. As spring arrives, I hope you, too, will discover the charms—and the magic—of magnolias.

1 National Arbor Day Foundation
2 Dorothy J. Callaway, *The World of Magnolias* (Timber Press)





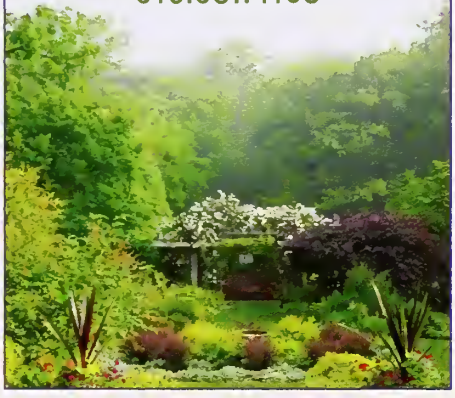


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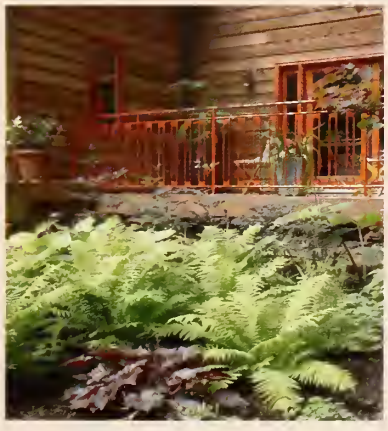


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Beautiful BASILS



Story by Jo Ann Gardner
Photos by Karen Bussolini

Ever since *Ocimum* 'Dark Opal', the first purple basil, made its debut as an All-America Selection in 1962, basil's reputation as a garden ornamental has grown steadily, changing the way we think about herbs. No longer confined to the herb garden, many basils are in demand for their aesthetic appeal, and deservedly so.

Right : **'Genovese' basil with rosemary and home-grown tomato**
Opposite page: **Close-up of 'Genovese' basil**

BEYOND PESTO

Gardeners have long valued basils for their lush green or purple foliage and varied forms, from miniature globe-shaped shrubs to upright towers. Massed flower spikes of the showiest sort range from purple to pink, often borne on designer-colored calyces and stems. More recently, variegated foliage has come into the basil mix. In addition to their beauty, basils have an edge over other garden plants: just growing and tending them envelops the gardener in warm, sweet, and spicy aromas, often with a touch of citrus.

Originally from tropical Asia and Africa, basils have been cultivated for thousands of years for their culinary and medicinal properties (like other members of the mint family, they are natural digestives). The majority of basils derive from *O. basilicum* or sweet basil, the one widely used in cooking. Others are hybrids, often of uncertain origin. They love heat, sun, and loamy soil that allows plenty of moisture to reach their roots. Most basils, except for hybrids, are true annuals; they mature and produce seeds their first season in the ground, then expire. New plants will grow from seed each season, but they may differ from their parents.

Sow seeds indoors at least six weeks before the last expected frost. Cover them with a sterile soil mix and keep them warm to speed germination (in as little as three days). Don't set plants outdoors until daytime and nighttime temperatures are at least 60°F or higher. Purples basils, especially, will sulk and refuse to grow if too cold. When sowing seed outdoors, tamp them firmly into moistened ground to prevent them from washing away in heavy rain.

Basils described as tender perennials, or "temperennials," survive the winter outdoors in Zones 10 or higher and are only sold as plants. They can be wintered over indoors easily from cuttings or mature plants.

In the garden, treat basils as you would other ornamentals. Pinch off flowers from those grown for foliage and trim plants back once or twice a season to encourage fresh leaf production. Most bush basils need little, if any, pruning. For flowering types, cut off mature flowering stalks to coax new blooms. It's no chore to keep plants trim since basils are so attractive in fresh bouquets. Don't be surprised if they root in water.

Upright, vigorous basils add striking accents in beds and borders and make distinctive hedges. Rows of dwarf basils work well as edging plants. All types of basil look handsome in containers on the patio or deck, where they will receive maximum heat and attention.

GREEN BASILS

Ocimum basilicum 'Sweet Genovese' is familiar as the pesto basil because of its superior clove flavor, but it is also a fine garden plant. In the absence of heavy harvesting, it produces a striking 3-foot bushy tower of 3-inch-long, lustrous green leaves. Pinch off the insignificant white flowers as they appear. Other green basils have a more pronounced columnar form. Tender perennial *O.* x *citriodora* 'Aussie Sweetie' (O. x c. 'Lesbos'/'Greek Columnar') grows to 30 inches, forming a sturdy upright bush of 1-inch bright leaves. It flowers very slowly and thrives in heat and humidity. 'Aussie





Left : **Cinnamon basil**

Right: **Basil 'Minette' potted with standard 'Kiwi' fern at Shady Gate Gardens.**



Sweetie' has a spicy-citrusy aroma.

I love cinnamon basil (*O. basilicum* 'Cinnamon') for its stocky habit and colorful ensemble: purple stems topped by a wealth of small pink to purple flowers growing from a base of red-veined, green leaves. Cinnamon basil makes a great digestive tea with a spicy-fruity flavor. 'Siam Queen', a 1997 AAS winner, is an improved version of Thai basil used to flavor Thai and Vietnamese dishes. A vigorous plant growing to 3 feet, its bright green, anise or licorice-scented foliage grows on red stems. By midsummer, densely packed pink-violet flower spikes adorn the stems. A 2002 AAS winner, 'Magical Michael' is a compact plant, just 15 inches tall and wide, with lush foliage perfectly balanced by a mass of purple flower spikes.

The standard green bush basil is 'Minimum', a fine-leaved round ball, 6 to 12 inches tall and densely packed with small pointed leaves that taste like nutmeg. 'Spicy Globe' and 'Green Globe' are variations on the bush basil theme, compact and uniform—no pruning necessary. 'Minette', 10 to 15 inches, is an improved globe basil with bright green leaves topped by tiny white flowers. These dwarf basils grow easily from seed, producing an upright little bush ideal for railroad gardens or miniature fairy gardens. I grow bush basils as an edging and in terracotta pots to contrast trailing rosemary and the sherbet nasturtium, *Tropaeolum* 'Creamsicle'.

PURPLE BASILS

The original purple basil, *Ocimum* 'Dark Opal', grows 12 to 15 inches tall and nearly as wide. 'Purple Ruffles', a 1986 AAS winner, has heavily ruffled, almost fringed, dark purple leaves and showy whorls of pink to rose-lavender flowers. It may be slow to

continued on next page

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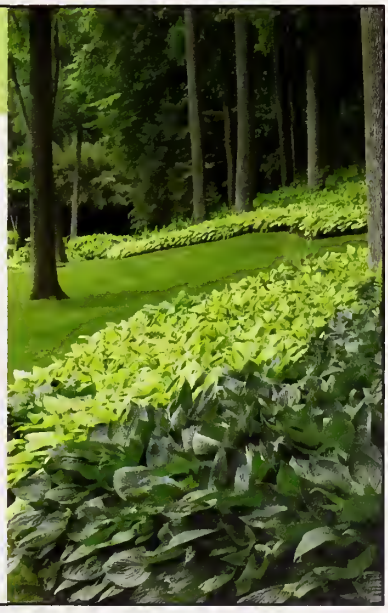
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start and greenish in the seedling stage, but it takes off in warmer weather when it turns all purple. 'Red Rubin', very true from seed, holds its color all season. 'Osmin', the latest in the purple sweepstakes, is reported to be the darkest of all. Grown for their outstanding foliage and beautiful flowers, purple basils' spicy flavor preserves well in vinegars and jellies.

Dwarf purples travel under different names but are very similar. Look for the original 'Well-Sweep Miniature Purple', developed by Cyrus Hyde at Well-Sweep Nursery. A choice plant that grows as a tender perennial, this dainty miniature bush, about 10 inches tall and 6 inches wide, has small, oval, dark-purple mahogany leaves and whorls of tiny pink flowers in large spikes at the top of the plant.

In a class by itself, the camphor-scented 'African Blue' ('Dark Opal' x *O. kilmandscharicum*) is a natural hybrid. Discovered by Peter Bouchard of Companion Plants herb nursery, it grows as a tender perennial to 3 feet tall and almost as wide, bearing dark green, purple-veined leaves with a bluish cast. The long showy purple flower spikes (non-seeding) make wonderful cut flowers.

VARIEGATED BASILS

Basil's extraordinary variability is a boon to the gardener. Two variegated basils, both grown as tender perennials, offer special delights. *O.* x 'Variegated African Blue', a sport of 'African Blue', bears foliage marked with a pattern of white, lime, and dark green, but grows less vigorously than its parent. Pierre Bennerup, proprietor of Sunny Border Nurseries, Inc., discovered what is known as *O.* x *citriodorum* 'Pesto Perpetuo' PPAF in his own vegetable garden. A sport of 'Aussie Sweetie'/'Lesbos', this eye-catching plant has light green foliage edged creamy white and does not flower. Its

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Top right : **Basil with marigolds**

Left top: **Basil 'Green Ruffles'**

Left middle: **Thai lemon basil**

Left bottom: **Genovese basil is equally attractive in the flower or vegetable garden.**

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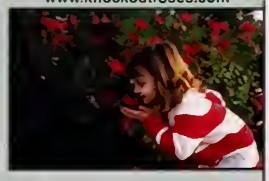


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slender columnar form—no more than a foot wide—is retained even as plants shoot upward to 5 feet. Bennerup, who advises trimming the tips every month or so, has grown 'Pesto Perpetuo' as a spectacular hedge around his garden (plant them close together for this effect). It makes a delicious pesto with a slightly different flavor from 'Genovese'.

Though basil will remain Queen of the Herb Garden, it has many different roles to play throughout the landscape. Use it in your kitchen if you want to, but don't hesitate to grow it for its looks alone. This versatile herb has earned its place in the pleasure garden.

Jo Ann Gardner has written several books on gardening, including *Elegant Silvers*, with Karen Bussolini.

Jo Ann's Favorite Basil Pesto

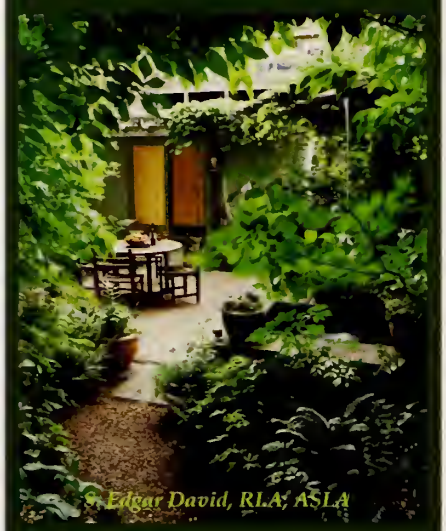
2 cups loosely packed, fresh 'Genovese' basil, with as few stems as possible

2 cloves garlic, peeled

1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil

Put these ingredients into the bowl of a food processor. Pulse about 20 times or until the basil is well pulverized. Add salt and fresh ground pepper to taste. I make this at the height of basil production, then freeze it to use later as a base for classic pesto, or simply add frozen chunks to sauces.

For classic pesto, add 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese and 1/3 cup ground pine nuts or walnuts, or as much as needed to thicken the sauce.

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By Rhoda Maurer

BETTER BASKETS



Photos by Rhoda Maurer & Becky Wehry

Browse around almost any garden center in spring and you'll see hanging baskets of begonias, geraniums, petunias, and fuchsias overflowing with blossoms. But some public gardens in the Delaware Valley have adopted more complex and exotic hanging baskets that include tropical plants known for their foliage rather than their floral display. At the Scott Arboretum, we like to call these "Burle baskets" after the renowned landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx. These can take the traditional form of a half-round hanging basket, sphere, cone, or other shape. All you need is a form with a sturdy wire frame, some un-milled sphagnum moss, well-drained potting media, interesting plants and some creativity.

Unlike traditional baskets, the form for your Burle basket needs well-spaced openings for planting on the sides and bottom as well as the top. Planting the sides will help ensure that once mature, the plants will completely hide the form and sphagnum lining. Keep in mind that, by the end of the growing season, a mature basket planted in a 24-inch diameter form can weigh up to 100 pounds when wet, so plan your support system accordingly. Ideally, the form and hanging supplies should be constructed of substantial materials that are weather resistant, such as heavy gauge rubber-coated wire.

Unlike other materials, a wire frame lasts for many seasons and offers varied planting opportunities; two half-round forms can be wired together for a full round the next year. Un-milled sphagnum moss (not the peat moss commonly used as a soil conditioner) makes the best material for lining wire forms. It can be found at some garden centers, craft supply stores or through mail-order; it is very long stranded, has a very coarse appearance, and retains organic debris from the peat bog. Even though I believe that as stewards of the environment we should be using peat-free products (because it's a non-renewable resource), I have not found good alternatives that successfully grow plants along the sides of these baskets.

Most tropical plants perform well in shady conditions, so these baskets can be grown under the eaves of the house or hung from large tree branches or other structures. When selecting plants, you will need some large focal



Top: **Half-round basket at Chanticleer.**



Above: **Eve Thyrum planting her "Burle Basket' at a Scott Arboretum workshop.**

Above: **Jeff Jabco showing how to stabilize a sturdy round frame while lining it with sphagnum moss.**



Right: **Half-round basket on display at Scott Arboretum mid-summer 2005**

points, some rambling types, and fillers of various textures and growth speeds; this is where personal creativity can blossom. Besides annuals, consider bromeliads, tillandsias, *Tradescantia* sp., tropical ferns, *Alternanthera* sp., smaller elephant ears, tropical *Oxalis* sp., rex and tuberous begonias and assorted ivy, as well as many fast-growing perennials and plants found in the houseplant section of your garden center.

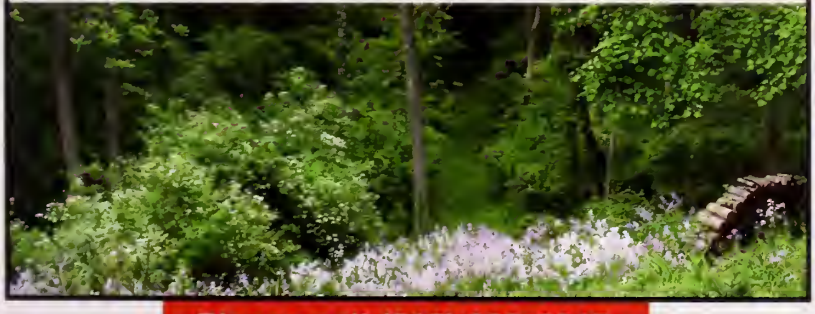
Before you begin planting this out-of-the-ordinary basket, prepare the sphagnum moss by soaking it in water. (As a precaution, always wear rubber gloves when working with sphagnum moss to protect yourself from a rare, but potentially unpleasant fungal infection called *Cutaneous sporotrichosis*.) Place rounded forms in a pot or bucket to prevent the form from rolling as you line it with an inch or so of prepared and squeezed-dry sphagnum. After the form is lined half way, begin to add your potting media, which will hold your lining in place as you work up the form. Use a soilless peat or coir-based media with added perlite for good drainage.

After you have completed lining and filling the form, plant one plant at a time by gently pulling aside the sphagnum lining and making a divot in the potting media. Wedge in the roots and push the lining back around the collar to secure it in the basket. Now, just water, fertilize, pinch and groom regularly, and enjoy!

Rhoda Maurer is the plant records supervisor at the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College. She is also the head gardener for a private estate in New Jersey and loves to write, photograph and lecture. You can visit the Scott Arboretum's website at *www.scottarboretum.org*.



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By Adam Levine

CARING FOR THE YOUNG

Unlike smaller, cheaper plants that are less prominent in the landscape, a tree is a commitment, something that needs to be cared for, especially early in its life. A tree is like a child: raise it up right, and it will reward you with years of pleasure. And a tree, unlike a child, doesn't suffer from the terrible twos or go through a rocky adolescence. Instead, you will enjoy its shade, or colorful foliage, or in some cases, fruits and nuts.

Unless, of course, we make it suffer by treating it wrong.

One of my favorite trees is *Acer griseum* (paperbark maple), which has beautiful, cinnamon-colored, exfoliating bark on older specimens. After admiring this tree in other gardens for years, I finally bought a foot-tall seedling at a nature center sale in 1996. My fantasy was to find the perfect spot in which to plant my beloved, one where it would thrive long after my own life had past. But one of the garden's lessons is that there are no perfect places for anything. Some rules, for some fussy plants, are inviolable, but part of the fun of gardening is boldly planting something where no one has dared to plant it before. Unless it's an obvious contradiction, such as planting a sunflower in the shade, such experimentation is how we learn.

If only I could follow my own advice. Instead of planting it in the garden, my poor *Acer* sat in its pot for six months, after which I plopped it into a holding bed, where it grew for more than three years, until the spring of 2000, when I finally decided to end my indecision and take the leap of faith that planting always is. I planted it, straightened the slender trunk as I filled around the roots, and hoped that, unlike an ill-treated child, my tree would forget its early years and forgive.

Unfortunately, this was not the end of the tree's travails. In 2002, when my gardening partner redesigned our garden space (which we were only renting), he decided the tree had to be relocated about 30 feet across the yard. It had grown to about five feet by then and seemed happy where it was, and I argued against the move. But my partner is both the artist and the optimist in the family, and he assured me the tree would both look better and do well in its newly-appointed spot, and it did.

I always say that men bearing gas- or electric-powered cutting tools should be kept 500 feet away from any garden, with electric fencing if necessary. But a well-meaning if ignorant gardener (male or female) can do quite a bit of harm even with a pair of hand pruners. One day I decided the *Acer* needed a little extra help growing tall and strong, and I did exactly the wrong thing, cutting off all the lower branches up to about three feet. I have since learned, through the PHS Tree Tender's program, that a young tree (especially one that has been recently transplanted) needs those lower branches to bulk up the girth of its trunk and provide energy for root growth. If any pruning at all is to be done, those healthy branches should be taken out slowly, a third at a time over several seasons.

In spite of it all, the tree continued to grow and thrive—but in Fall 2004, the estate on which we rented was sold to a developer, and we moved the tree again, along with most of our garden, to a house we bought nearby. After it sat in burlap all winter nestled under a pile of mulch, we planted it last April in what I hope will be its final resting place and not the place of its demise. I worry for the tree now, because during last summer's drought several of the lower branches died back and many of the leaves shriveled and browned. The ingrained pessimistic part of me insists: "The tree is dead! Dead! Dead!"

Besides the optimist gardening partner, who insists the tree is fine, I now carry a counterpart to that naysaying yammerer inside my own head—the gardener who, for the past 20 years, has learned that plants are far more resilient and forgiving than most people, and that come spring, my *Acer*—along with the rest of the garden—will most likely come back to life. And if it not, it isn't all my fault and it certainly isn't the end of the world. It is sad when a young tree dies, but there are other trees to plant, and I now have learned how to treat them right.

To learn more about PHS tree programs, visit our website (*www.PennsylvaniaHorticulturalSociety.org*) and click on "Learn About TreeVitalize" in the Latest News section.



Adam Levine, a frequent contributor to Green Scene, is nurturing a new garden at his home in Media, PA.

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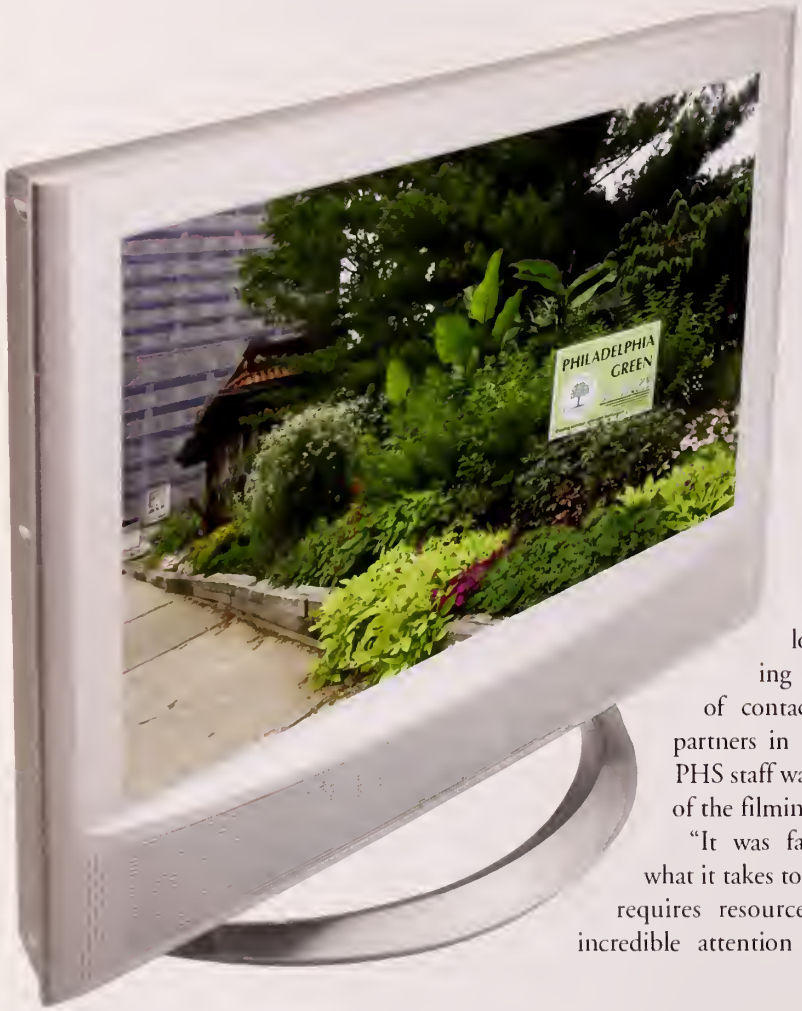
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Philly Green to be Featured in Major Television Documentary on PBS

By Daniel Moise

Roll out the red carpet and warm up the spotlight, because the premiere of *Edens Lost & Found* is fast approaching. The Philadelphia portion of this four-hour documentary, featuring four American cities and their respective greening projects, will make its **PBS debut on May 25**.

Edens Lost and Found is an uplifting look at Philadelphia, Chicago, Seattle, and Los Angeles, each of which is using greening and environmental innovation as a means toward urban rebirth. It reveals how professionals, government, and ordinary citizens can come together to create a better way of life for all. The brainchild of Academy Award-winning filmmakers Harry Wiland and Dale Bell, the movie is sure to inform, inspire, and engage.



PHS played a significant role in making the documentary's Philadelphia segment a reality. By raising funds; arranging logistics; and having a broad network of contacts, friends, and partners in Philadelphia, the PHS staff was an integral part of the filming process.

"It was fascinating to see what it takes to make a movie. It requires resourcefulness and an incredible attention to detail," says Joan Reilly, director of Philadelphia Green.

Of course PHS wasn't solely behind the scenes—the decades-long efforts of PHS's Philadelphia Green program are a highlight of the film. The documentary also showcases other endeavors that have put the city on the path to a better future. The development of charter schools, new housing opportunities, and the work of the Mural Arts Program all convey just how innovative the city has become.

"Our role in the film relates to stewardship of the environment. Greening is an important step toward revitalizing a city that must be lifted up and recognized," Joan says. "I hope the film will make people want to work and live in Philadelphia, as well as visit its tremendous points of interest."

Tying this all together is the film's host, actor David Morse, who lives in Philadelphia. Morse has been featured in dozens of films including *The Green Mile*, *Dreamer*, and the upcoming *16 Blocks*. "It is really exciting to have a man of his talent and integrity be a part of this project," Joan says.

The first two segments of *Edens Lost and Found* will feature Chicago (May 18) and Philadelphia (May 25). The other two parts, showcasing Los Angeles and Seattle, will air in the fall.

"I'm very excited that PHS had a significant role in getting this film made," says J. Blaine Bonham Jr., executive vice president of PHS. "I also think it's terrific that the work of PHS will garner national exposure, allowing the entire country to see what we're all about." ■

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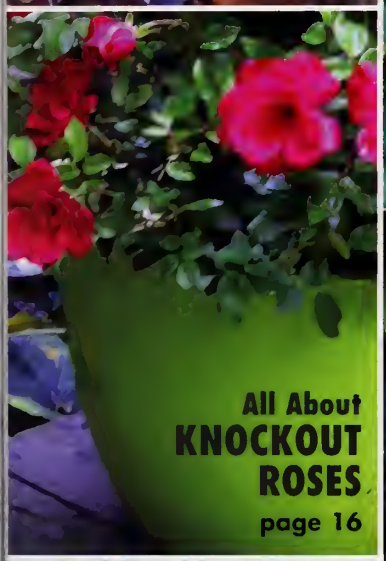
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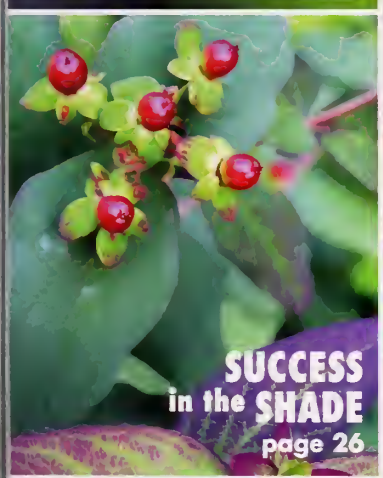
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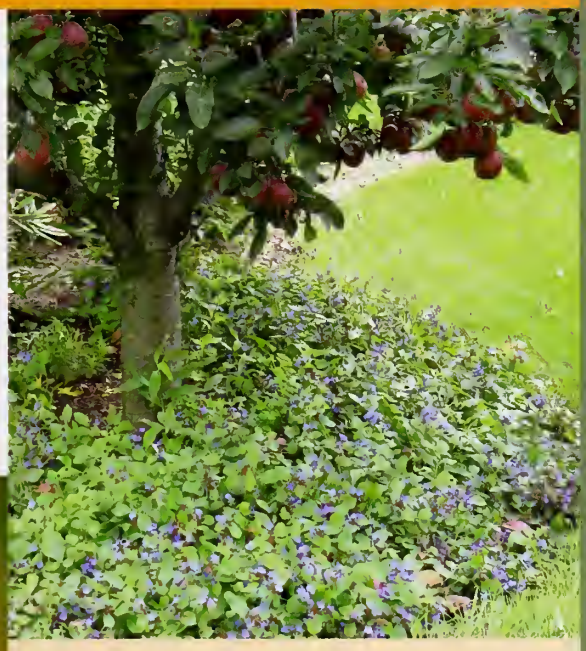
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More often than not, roses are relegated to remote areas of the garden, isolated from their botanical brethren. But why? Despite what you may have heard, rosebushes make great companion plants to a large variety of annuals, herbs, trees, and shrubs. Trust rose virtuoso Stephen Scanniello to show you how to mix it up.





26 Backyard Battles with Dry Shade
Your backyard may seem like a peaceful retreat, but do you know what's going on beneath the soil? Underground, the roots of plants and trees are engaged in a ruthless turf war. No need to fear, horticulturist George Weigel is here to help. Learn about accommodating plant species that don't mind sharing root space and are able to thrive in the dry shade of tree canopies.

16 The "Rocky" of Roses
Do high-maintenance roses make you want to throw in the trowel? Don't get discouraged. Here, Anthony S. Aiello tells the story of the Knock Out rose, a horticulture heavyweight for the modern rose grower. Learn more about its intriguing origin in the pages ahead.

20 It Pays to be Green
Money might not grow on them, but trees are proving to be quite valuable to urban business owners. Research shows that customers prefer shopping in commercial districts adorned with flowers, shrubs, and trees. In this story, Jane Carroll shows just how strongly environment can impact the economy.

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The 2006 Green Scene
"Garden Photo Contest"
is here! See page 30-31 for details.

The WAR of the ROSES

Roses are simply the definitive garden plant. They are the universal symbol of love and romance, but also symbolic of other sentiments, too, such as courage, admiration, purity and sympathy. Roses are full of contradictions, sporting both gorgeous blossoms that attract admirers and a thorny stem that chases them away. In the right spot, roses can bloom happily for decades, but in the wrong spot, they can be miserable under-performers and be host to myriad diseases. And yet year after year, we keep buying roses. We simply can't stop ourselves.

I've had roses on my property ever since I started gardening in the early '90s. I'm hardly an expert rosarian, but to me, one's home and lawn are not complete without a few roses. In my very first garden, I erected an arbor using two old porch columns and a rickety trellis on top (*see photo*). On either side, I put in a pair of climbing 'Blaze' roses. By the second year, I had a stunning display of crimson blossoms that greatly boosted my gardening morale.

But there was a downside, which I learned the hard way: black spot, mildew, fungal diseases. After three or four glorious weeks of blooms in June, my rose arbor turned into a black, moldy mess in July and all the leaves fell off. This, I learned eventually, was typical of many roses that some of us grew back then. My experiments with hybrid tea roses had a similarly devastating result: a few, brief weeks of beauty followed by a month or two of depressing decay. It was almost enough to make me give up roses for good.

But age brings knowledge; soon I learned about "shrub" roses and a growing list of disease-resistant varieties, and my rose interests were reinvigorated. A few years later, I visited the garden of expert rose grower Reggie Thomas and was simply blown away by her fearless plantings. There were roses on the fences, roses on the arbors and trellises, and roses climbing all over her house. I was transfixed and transformed. We even wrote about her spectacular garden in the April, 2002 issue.

And *then* came Knock Out. This hardy shrub rose changed the rules of the rose-growing game. No longer were we rose lovers victims of those hot, humid Mid-Atlantic summers. Here, at last, was a rose that needed no fungicides, elaborate pruning, or special fertilizers. Instead, Knock Out bloomed prolifically all summer long and actually thrived on negligence. And for those who couldn't stomach its violently magenta color in their planting beds, there soon came pink and blush Knock Outs for those requiring a softer palette.

Today, we are living in a golden era for rose growing and we will celebrate that in this issue. Despite the sweltering months of July and August (and sometimes September), gardeners in our region can find a multitude of tough, hardy roses that take a beating and keep on blooming, such as 'Carefree Beauty', and the popular Flower Carpet and Premium Rose brands. For openers, we hear from expert rosarian Stephen Scanniello, who gives us a tour of his private garden on the Jersey shore. In that sandy spot, he grows a vast assortment of roses and even a "rose tree," one of the most spectacular feats of gardening skill this editor has ever witnessed. (See pages 12-13.)

As a followup, Anthony Aiello of the University of Pennsylvania's Morris Arboretum writes about the Knock Out rose and, most notably, the pink variety they discovered in their gardens.

Of course, there's more in this issue of *Green Scene* besides roses, but in any case, this is one edition of the magazine with a very *rosy* disposition.

Pete Prown
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PONDS IN POTS

Story & Photography by Rob Cardillo

Container water gardens bring liquid life to decks and patios. Like any flower pots, they provide focal points of color and texture right where you can enjoy them most. Beyond that, they add the delightful presence of water—its mesmerizing movements, dancing reflections, and, if you add a small fountain, relaxing sounds. A bubbling miniature pond will fascinate visitors and entertain kids, and it's the perfect way to learn about aquatic biology before you plunge into a larger, in-ground project.

Water gardens can grow in any sturdy watertight vessel, including glazed crocks, ceramic pots, plastic bowls, and metal troughs. You can use more porous containers if you waterproof them first. For aesthetic reasons, most people prefer a dark interior finish to hide plant supports, fountain plumbing, and possible algae growth. Dark interiors also give an illusion of depth.

Proper location is key. Most aquatic plants do best with at least five to six hours of direct sunlight. Too much shade and your plants will decline and give way to algae soup. And since water weighs about eight pounds per gallon, you won't want to be pushing these pots around, so site them right before you fill them.

For visual interest, try a mix of tall, broad, floating, and cascading plants. Arrange plants like you would any bouquet—tall ones in the back—and don't crowd the container lest you lose sight of the water's surface. Most plants sold for water gardens are grown in a mucky soil, but those grown in normal potting soil will cloud up the water. Repot them in heavy clay, pond mud, or even non-clumping cat litter.

Maintenance is minimal. Top off your pot with the hose every few days and keep an eye out for mosquito larvae, especially in these days of West Nile Virus. These tiny wrigglers normally won't appear in a container with moving water, but you can easily overfill the containers to push out any larvae that float near the top. Or treat your mini pond with *Bt* doughnuts, which contain a natural larvicide that's safe and effective.

For a temporary water garden that's perfect for outdoor entertaining, simply cut and float a handful of your favorite leaves and blooms in an attractive container, as they often do at Chanticleer in Wayne, PA.

Here's how to turn a common wooden barrel planter into a delightfully bubbly ecosystem:





STEP ONE: Place a sheet of flexible PVC pond liner (or other heavy plastic) into the barrel. Push and fold the fabric as needed, making sure you work it into the bottom as much as possible. Using long sturdy staples, fasten the fabric securely to the top rim. Alternatively, you can buy a preformed hard-plastic liner to fit common-sized barrels.

STEP TWO:: Cut off the excess fabric to give the edge a nice finish.

STEP THREE: Add pebbles or gravel to the bottom of the pots to keep them weighted down. Use bricks, piles of stones, or inverted ceramic flower pots to keep each plant's foliage above the waterline.

STEP FOUR: Fill container with water. If your water supply is heavily chlorinated, let the water sit for a few days before adding plants.

STEP FIVE: Add fountain and enjoy.

SOME SUGGESTED PLANTS:

Tall Plants
Sweet Flag (*Acorus calamus*)
Yellow Flag (*Iris pseudacorus*)
Dwarf Papyrus (*Cyperus isocladus*)
Cork Screw Rush (*Juncus effusus*)
Miniature Cattail (*Typha minima*)

Broad-leafed Plants
Arrowhead (*Sagittaria sp.*)
Calla Lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)
Miniature Water Lily (*Nymphaea sp.*)

Cascading Plants
Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*)
Parrot Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Floating Plants
Water Lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*)
Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)







FLASHES of RED

By Ray Rogers

I remember my first encounter with cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*). One summer I visited the Western Pennsylvania Nature Conservancy's Wildflower Preserve near Pittsburgh with my parents. My mother was there as a gardener and plant enthusiast in search of new gardens to enjoy (passions that obviously rubbed off on me), and my father was providing his usual role as weekend-excursion chauffeur. Suddenly I noticed a flash of brilliant red, which alerted my budding avian interests. Was that a scarlet tanager I had just spotted? I had read about this intrepidly migratory red bird in books and wanted to see one in every common cardinal that visited our home garden. (And yes, both the flower and the bird are named after the red vestments of Catholic cardinals.)

A closer look of the beckoning red patch revealed it was some kind of elongated flower cluster, and a quick check of my wildflower identification guide unmistakably identified it as cardinal flower. Even though it was not my hoped-for scarlet tanager, it was still an exciting find, made even more memorable by our discovery of a rather large stand of it blazing farther along the trail in a lower, wetter spot. Even the chauffeur was impressed!

Ever since that day, I've admired cardinal flower for its brilliant summer display. It is easy to enjoy in your own garden in a moist to almost-wet and not overly fertile spot in morning sun or dappled afternoon sun, where the plants will bloom for a few years and then be readily replaced by healthy new volunteer seedlings.

I planted a few cardinal flowers in my so-called bog garden, which in reality is little more than a plastic-lined corner of soil in my back garden, but it provides the conditions for a little colony of cardinal flowers to persist. They don't grow as tall as the ones I've admired in a friend's garden in the New Jersey Pinelands, where the sandy, moist soil supports the production of many four-footers. But mine still have the power to attract yet another species of bird in this story, namely the ruby-throated hummingbird. Although I don't live in a nature preserve, my few plants still provide some magic moments for me—much like the time I first spotted cardinal flowers in the Wildflower Preserve—when a hummingbird darts around them before dashing away.

So while I still haven't yet observed a scarlet tanager, maybe some day what I think is a spike of cardinal flower moving in the breeze will actually turn out to be that elusive little bird. Until then, I can at least enjoy the brilliant color of this native gem.

Ray Rogers likes to include bird watching among his gardening activities and can usually distinguish a bird from a flower.

CULTIVATION

Height: 2 to 4 feet
Bloom time: Summer
Soil: Moist clay to sandy loam
ph: Neutral to slightly acidic
Light: Partial shade to full sun

06/07

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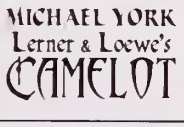

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'Autumn Sunset'

ROSES
and their Companions

I'll tell you a secret about roses; they make great garden plants. They deserve better treatment than being stuck in a bed you create for them along the driveway or behind the boxwood hedge, isolated from the rest of the garden where they shamefully drop their leaves and bare their canes when black spot hits. Why not dress up your roses with companion plants and flowers that can fill in during those times when roses aren't in bloom? Create gorgeous gardens with your roses. That's what I like to do with mine.

While I was the curator of the Cranford Rose Garden at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, I grew nothing but roses. Occasionally there was a stray viola seedling that blew in from the nearby compost pile, but otherwise it was just roses—nearly 5,000 plants. After 13 years, I tired of this traditional style. When I ventured out on my own as a garden designer, I couldn't wait to combine roses with all sorts of perennials, biennials, annuals, herbs, trees, shrubs, and flowering bulbs—all wonderful companions for roses. The perfect cohort is a plant that will complement the rose, not compete with it.

The blue atlas cedar in my Barnegat, New Jersey, garden stops traffic every June. From dawn to dusk, cars slow down or stop and I hear the camera shutter click. Apricot-pink roses, blushed with orange, spill out from the cedar's every opening nearly 20 feet above ground, spilling from the long majestic branches of this blue-gray-needled evergreen. The rose is 'Autumn Sunset', a climber planted alongside the tree 10 years ago. The rose does no harm to the cedar, and the tree offers the rose safe harbor from the winter winds and natural support for its fragrant, bloom-covered canes. When 'Autumn Sunset' is not in bloom, the beauty of the tree takes center stage, as if the rose never existed. This is exactly what a rose companion should do.

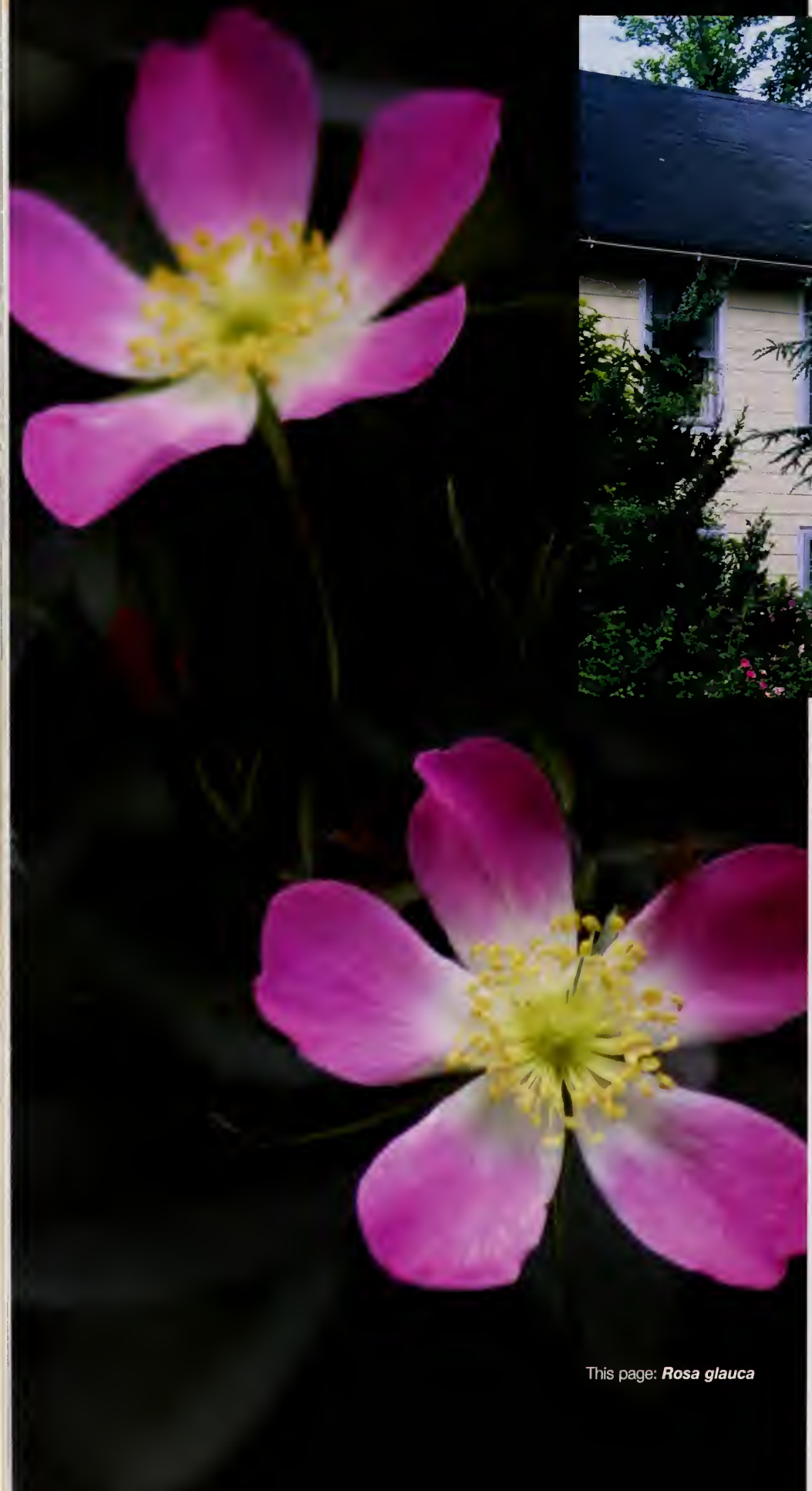
Choose companions whose needs for sunlight, water, air circulation, and growth space match those of your roses. Roses require at least five hours of sunlight in a well-drained site. They need regular watering, so lavender and other plants that require less moisture should be planted away from the drip irrigation or perhaps on a mound next to the rose for better drainage. Use plants with similar growth habits; don't plant aggressive trees or shrubs with a small rosebush. When roses are shaded by taller plants they won't bloom; they'll sulk. Since roses are prone to black spot and mildew, don't crowd them with large-leaved perennials like foxgloves and delphiniums; allow enough space for the foliage when you are spacing these mates with your roses. Perennials and annuals with smaller foliage, such as daylilies and nepeta, won't interfere with air circulation and can be planted closer to the rose. If my roses become infected with black spot, I begin to prune. In mid-summer, when the heat and humidity is at its worst and the disease is prevalent, I prune back the rose and let the companions take the spotlight. I'm also not afraid to dig up a rose and try a better variety.

When paired with the right companions, roses can be part of the four-season garden. Evergreens such as boxwoods or yews add a formal touch, as well as color during the winter when the roses are dormant and at their least attractive. Spring bulbs like tulips, fritillaria, camassia, and chionodoxa add early color, and if planned properly, will complement the newly emerging foliage of the roses as they break dormancy. The grey, blue, and green foliage of nepeta,



Story by Stephen Scanniello
Photography by Pete Prown

Create gorgeous gardens with your roses. That's what I like to do with mine.





This page: ***Rosa glauca***

lavender, and teucrium work well with all colors of roses. Spikey perennials, including campanula, salvia, and summer bulbs, add a wonderful fragrance to the garden while the roses are between bloom cycles. Asters and chrysanthemums will hide the inevitable naked knees of the hybrid teas in autumn.

Don't overlook rose foliage. The colors of emerging leaves range from intense plum red to bluish green depending on the type of rose. I under-plant *Rosa glauca*, also known as the red-leafed rose, with tulips 'Shirley' (white streaked with purple) and 'Queen of the Night' (dark purple). Both of these tulips bloom as the rose's grey-red foliage comes out of winter dormancy. Tea and China roses sprout rich red foliage that mixes well with many perennials and shrubs.

The fragrance of a rose garden can be enhanced by equally fragrant companions. It's a magical moment during a full moon on a June evening to wander through my Barnegat garden as 'Mme. Plantier' and

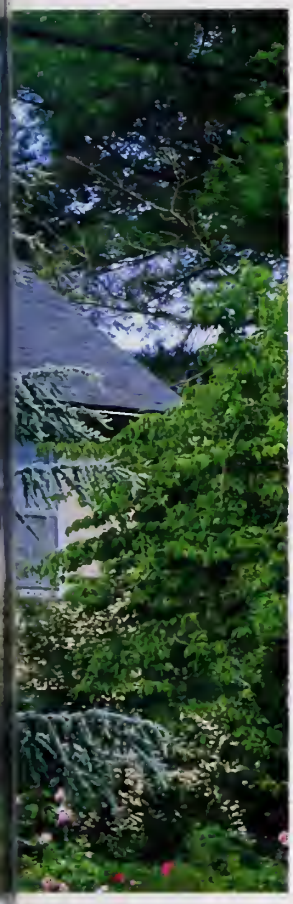


Photo by S. Scaniello

'Autumn Sunset' climbs an evergreen in Barnegat, NJ.

'Mme. Hardy' are in peak bloom, surrounded by the airy umbels of the perennial herb *Valeriana officinalis*—infusing the evening air with its fragrance of fresh baby powder. I also plant the annual *Nicotiana* throughout the garden for its delicious evening scent. If that's not enough, try pots of night-blooming jasmine near a porch or under the window of the family room.

To add a striking vertical element to your garden, plant tall, spikey perennials and biennials such as foxgloves, hollyhocks, veronicastrum, and delphiniums next to rose-covered pillars and arches. Be sure to allow space for the foliage of these colorful plants so you don't crowd out the rose. Better yet, use them with tall shrub roses like 'Abraham Darby' or 'Belinda's Dream'. Salvia, low-growing veronicas, and other small spiked plants add a finer style of vertical to the garden; they are perfect planted among hybrid teas or old garden roses. The annual salvia 'Black and Blue' and the new orchid-pink hybrid tea 'Memorial Day' make a lovely combination.

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Roses (part 1)









Clockwise from top left:

'Complicata'

'Sophie's Perpetual'

Rose 22 RT8

'Trier'

Besides the obvious cover-up scheme, there are other benefits to growing other plants with your roses. Some garden plants attract beneficial predators, while others act as natural pest repellents. Perennials with umbel-shaped blooms, like yarrow, bronze fennel, and valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), attract a tiny wasp that preys on aphids. Members of the allium family (garlic chives and flowering onions) seem to repel sucking and chewing insects as well. In autumn I plant these, as well as other spring and summer flowering bulbs, as close as possible to the bases of my roses. I like to finish the job by planting violas, preferably the Sorbet Series, where the bulbs are buried. These small pansies are more winter tolerant, bursting into full bloom just as the sun begins to warm the garden in early spring. They serve as a colorful living mulch around the base of the roses.

Growing roses should be fun, not a chore. With good planning, common sense, and the right companions, you'll get very satisfying results. So come on, take your roses out of the rose garden and bring them into your broader flower garden where they belong.

Stephen Scanniello is best known as a hands-on gardener who transformed the Cranford Rose Garden of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden into one of the world's most acclaimed rose gardens. Stephen has co-authored *Roses of America* and *Climbing Roses*, and has written *Rose Companions* and *A Year of Roses*. He lives and gardens in Jersey City and Barnegat, New Jersey.



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A COMPLETE KN

A New Rose Discovery at the Morris Arboretum



Story by
Anthony S. Aiello

A few years ago for Mother's Day I gave my mom several Knock Out rose plants. She was very happy for the gift, but after thanking me, her next response was, "But roses are so much work; don't I need to prune and spray these throughout the summer?"

"No," I told her, "these are a new type of landscape rose that blooms all summer long and are highly disease resistant." Skeptically, she watched me plant them, and I've had nothing but rave reviews ever since.

Knock Out rose (*Rosa* 'Radrazz') is one of the hottest-selling plants in the United States. Unofficially, there were close to two million of them sold last year alone! Knock Out was bred by William Radler of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and introduced by the Conard-Pyle Company of West Grove, PA. Its flower color is unmistakable—a bright, rich, cherry red—with blooms that are self-cleaning and last from late spring into the fall. It is an absolutely carefree, landscape shrub rose, reaching about 4 feet tall and wide, with remarkably disease-resistant foliage.

In the spring of 2000, around the same time that I had given my mother her roses, the Morris





This page:
Pink Knockout

Opposite page:
Morris Arboretum's rose garden


OCK OUT

Roses (part 2)







Clockwise from top left: **Blushing Knockout**

A red Knockout bloom

Pink knockout

Steve Hutton, president of Conard-Pyle

Knockout closeup

Knockout in a container

Arboretum in Philadelphia received several Knock Out roses from Conard-Pyle, and we planted them adjacent to our parking lots. We chose this location because it was far from any roses that were being sprayed for disease, the bed has terrible soil, and is an area that bakes during the summer months. We wanted to see if these roses were as tough as everyone claims they are. One day in the summer of 2001 our rosarian, Mike Tuszynski, noticed one plant of this group had a branch with pink flowers instead of the typical red.

We immediately contacted Conard-Pyle and began propagating this pink "sport" (a *sport* is a natural mutation). It turns out that Knock Out is a variable plant; Conard-Pyle had simultaneously discovered an identical 'pink' Knock Out. Over the next summers, we worked with Conard-Pyle to propagate and evaluate this pink sport in their field trials. It turned









out that the two pink discoveries were virtually indistinguishable in the field. Eventually Conard-Pyle chose to introduce their rose as the Pink Knock Out (*Rosa* 'Radcon'), but because of our simultaneous discovery the Arboretum shares in the royalties from this introduction.

Pink Knock Out rose has proved to have all the great characteristics of the original Knock Out, with the only difference being the flower color. Its flowers are a medium pink that can stand alone or integrate into a mixed border, combining well with traditional rose companions like lavender, catmint, and salvia. Its performance and ultimate size are very similar to Knock Out. It is totally resistant to rose black spot and reaches 3 to 4 feet tall and wide. Pink Knock Out blooms continuously from June to October and is fully hardy in the Delaware Valley.

If you are looking to expand your palette of the Knock Out series, you can also choose from Double Knock Out (*Rosa* 'Radtko'), which has cherry-red double flowers, and Blushing Knock Out (*Rosa* 'Radyod'), with shell-pink blooms. All of the plants in the series are on display in the Morris Arboretum's rose garden, where we have mixed them with perennials and annuals for longer seasonal interest.

The Knock Out series of roses has made believers of many former rose-phobics. If you give them what they most want—full-sun, reasonable soil, and spring pruning—they will become one of the easiest and most trouble-free plants in your garden.

Anthony S. Aiello is the Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania. The garden's website is *www.morrisarboretum.org*.

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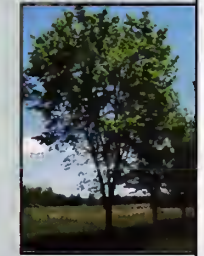
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The BUSINESS of GREENING



Using Horticulture to Enhance the Bottom Line

Story by Jane Carroll

Where would you rather shop? In a big-box store surrounded by an asphalt parking lot, in a strip mall off a congested thoroughfare, or in pleasant shops along a tree-lined street adorned with flowering containers and hanging baskets?

Given the choice, most people favor nicely landscaped surroundings. But adding a splash of green to the urban setting can also help paint a rosier economic picture. Research indicates that greening has a positive effect on the business environment and real estate values. Kathleen Wolf, research director at the College of Forest Resources, University of Washington, has found that people not only like the look and feel of tree-lined streets, but they are more likely to open their wallets when trees and flowers are around.

In the *Journal of Forestry,* Wolf writes that there are "positive associations between streetscapes having trees and consumer preference, perceptions, and behavior." Her research shows that people will travel farther to visit "forested" shopping districts, are more willing to pay for parking there, will pay more for goods and services (9 to 12 percent more), and come away with a better overall impression of their experience.[1]

Cities across the country are taking notice. Citing advantages to businesses along with environmental concerns, the Sacramento Tree Foundation in California is working to double the six-county Sacramento region's tree canopy over the next 40 years. Chicago has invested unprecedented resources toward becoming the nation's "greenest city," planting more than 400,000 trees and adding thousands of acres of parks and open space.





Top: **Containers add beauty to South 17th Street.**

Bottom: **Pedestrians enjoy the shade of trees on Walnut Street.**



A GREENER DOWNTOWN

Through its Philadelphia Green program, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society works to beautify and maintain public green spaces, streetscapes, and gateways in the city's downtown and commercial districts. PHS works under contract for the Center City District, a business improvement organization, to maintain hundreds of street trees, sidewalk planters, hanging baskets, and parking-lot screens in the downtown area. It also partners with the city's Fairmount Park Commission to maintain high-profile landscapes such as the grounds of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Logan Square, and the Azalea Garden.

All of this greening requires a financial commitment that is difficult for cities with sagging budgets, yet it can pay off by creating a more appealing environment for shoppers and investors. Paul Levy, president and CEO of the Center City District, says his organization has planted more than 600 new street trees and cares for another 300.

"Considering the cost of the tree, the trench the tree is planted in, the brick paving over the trench, and the underground watering system," Levy explains, "this amounts to an investment by the District of more than $2,000 per tree, or $1.2 million [for the new trees]. Additionally, we invest roughly $60,000 per year in a maintenance program for all 900 trees. But we believe strongly that the shade and attractiveness provided by street trees offer benefits to commerce and quality of life in Center City that make the financial investment more than worthwhile."



A vacant lot on American Street before greening (top) and after

A NEW PHILADELPHIA

In some of Philadelphia's struggling neighborhoods where decades of population loss has meant blight and abandonment, greening is a big part of the effort to breathe new life into these communities.

From 1995 through 2002, PHS worked with the New Kensington Community Development Corporation in eastern North Philadelphia to manage the neighborhood's 1,100 blighted vacant lots. The effort included "stabilizing" vacant lots (clearing debris and installing grass, perimeter fencing, and trees), creating community gardens, planting trees, renovating parks, and transferring some lots to homeowners. Last year, a study by Susan Wachter, professor of real estate at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, revealed that the value of homes adjacent to the improved lots increased by 30 percent.[2]

PHS also manages vacant land in the American Street Empowerment Zone, cleaning lots and planting trees along this historically important industrial corridor. The effort has dramatically improved the area's appearance, sparked new economic opportunities, and prompted several American Street businesses to help support the work financially.

Local businessperson Tom Forkin serves as president of the American Street Erie Avenue Business Association. He sees greening as a way to stay competitive. "We got involved with cleaning and greening in our neighborhood because we see it as an economic development generator. Cleaning, greening, and stabilizing have been a huge boost—not only for my business but for the surrounding businesses, for the surrounding community."

PHS has been addressing the vacant land problem in other parts of the city as well through a contract with the city's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative (NTI), a full-scale program to revitalize neighborhoods. More than 4,000 debris-filled vacant lots have been stabilized and another 2,500 lots are kept clean through PHS's Community LandCare Project, in which neighborhood-based contractors perform regular mowing and trash removal. The results have been dramatic.

"There really is a new Philadelphia," says Stephanie Naidoff, city representative and director of commerce. "I think greening has provided the 'tipping point' in terms of transforming the neighborhoods, because it empowered the communities."

(continued on p. 24)

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We believe strongly that the shade and attractiveness provided by street trees offer benefits to commerce and quality of life in Center City that make the financial investment more than worthwhile. —Paul Levy, President and CEO, Center City District

NEIGHBORHOOD CORRIDORS

As part of its NTI contract, PHS has also brought greening to commercial strips in several city neighborhoods, creating green traffic islands, small "pocket parks," and new street-tree and container plantings.

Lewis C. Wendell is executive director of the University City District in West Philadelphia. The organization partnered with PHS to transform a large traffic triangle at 45th Street and Baltimore Avenue into a green gateway. "I am a firm believer that an aesthetically pleasing environment with well-maintained landscaping helps create a business-friendly atmosphere where people will want to spend their time and their money," he says.

The Neighborhood Transformation Initiative has begun to focus on these neighborhood-based commercial strips. It recently launched a new Commercial Corridor Support Program that will help pay for building rehabilitation, façade renovation, new business development, streetscape enhancements, and greening.

"The aim of this program is to promote commercial corridors as healthy, vibrant hubs for steadily improving neighborhoods, and greening will continue to be an important component," says Eva Gladstein, director of NTI. It's an investment that promises rewards beyond the corridors themselves. In a study completed this year, Susan Wachter found that a corridor in 'excellent' condition is correlated with a 36 percent rise in value for homes within 1/4 mile.[3]

DOLLARS AND SENSE

As more and more urban areas "go green," the benefits can reach far and wide. Attractive streetscapes bring increased business activity, higher real estate values, and new jobs, which means more tax revenue and a better economic picture for cities. Beyond that, reinvestment in the nation's aging cities means less development in outer-ring suburbs and rural areas, preserving precious open space.

On a personal level, green cities just feel better. Says Lewis Wendell, "Encouraging businesses—along with institutions and residents—to decorate their surroundings with plants and flowers is in everyone's interests, as it greatly enhances our quality of life."

1 Wolf, Kathleen L. "Business District Streetscapes, Trees, and Consumer Response," Journal of Forestry. December 2005, 396-400.

2 Wachter, Susan, "The Determinants of Neighborhood Transformation in Philadelphia, Identification and Analysis: The New Kensington Pilot Study." The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, 2005 (funded by the William Penn Foundation).

3 Wachter, Susan, and Kevin C. Gillen, "Public Investment Strategies: How They Matter for Neighborhoods in Philadelphia-Identification and Analysis." The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, 2006 (funded by the William Penn Foundation).

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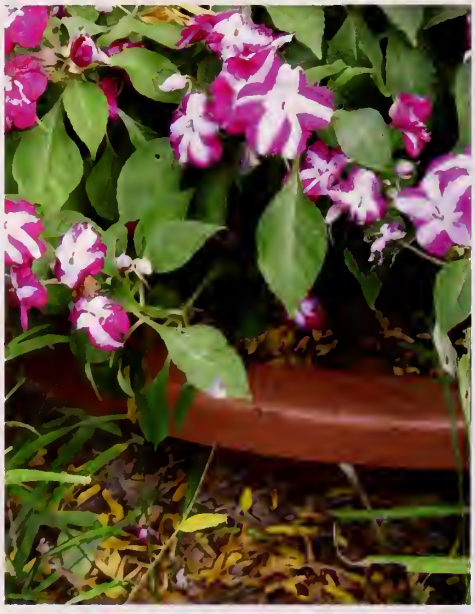


UNDER

Story and photography by George Weigel









the CANOPY



Clockwise from top left:
Tree roots killing grass

***Hypericum* 'Albury Purple' (St. Johnswort)**

Sweet woodruff

Astilbe chinensis 'Pumila'

***Geranium* 'Rozanne'**

Place annuals in buried pots under trees.



The Trick to Planting in Dry Shade

Trees have a lot of great traits, but they make lousy botanical neighbors. Anyone who has repeatedly attempted to plant grass under the canopy of a silver maple can vouch for that. Grass roots and tree roots just don't get along.

You may be able to milk a few extra years out of turfgrass by limbing up and thinning out tree branches, irrigating in dry weather, reseeding with shade-tolerant fine fescue, and keeping foot traffic to a minimum, but despite these efforts, the tree will ultimately win out. Big-rooted or shallow-rooted species, such as maples, oaks, beeches, birches, tulip poplar, honey locust and spruce, are especially unwelcoming to new neighbors.

Dealing with this kind of dry shade is one of the toughest challenges in gardening. Tree leaves not only block sunlight and light rain from reaching the ground, but even heavier rains are quickly sucked dry by the tree's elaborate root system. Although many gardeners try adding soil before reseeding, this rarely aids the cohabitation of tree and grass roots. Adding a little soil allows the roots to simply grow up into it within a year or two. On the other hand, by adding too much soil you run the risk of smothering the roots.

So what's a root-harried gardener to do?

The easiest and most obvious solution (other than simply mulching the area) is replacing the struggling grass with a groundcover that tolerates both dry and shaded conditions. My favorite is pachysandra, either the native Allegheny spurge (*P. procumbens*) or the faster-growing and more common Asian type (*P. terminalis*). These evergreens are tall enough to choke out creeping weeds and polite enough not to creep into the surround-

ing lawn or up the tree. Creeping myrtle (*Vinca minor*), wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*) and European bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*) are also decent alternatives if you're meticulous about picking out weeds until they thicken. Ivy may be cheap and effective, but it doesn't know when to quit.

A more garden-friendly approach is to use masses of perennial flowers that tolerate shade and tree roots. Tops on my list is lily turf (*Liriope muscari*), a grassy-looking, foot-tall, semi-evergreen plant that displays purple flower spikes in late summer. I have a double ring of them growing unfazed around a hulking pin oak. All you need to do is mow or weed-whack them to a stub at winter's end.

Another grossly underused under-tree perennial is barrenwort (*Epimedium* sp.), which gets red-tinged, heart-shaped leaves and dainty, hanging, bell-like flowers in spring. They're slow to get going but make an attractive, weed-choking planting by the third or fourth year. Another beauty is leadwort (*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*), a 10-inch creeper that gets true-blue flowers in late summer, followed by glossy scarlet foliage before the leaves drop for winter.

Then there are the many new introductions of evergreen hellebore hybrids (*Helleborus hybridus*), lotsa' hosta, several nice species of heart-shaped, evergreen hardy gingers, and an ever-expanding array of silvery- and dark-leafed coral bells (*Heuchera* sp.). Hosta and coral bells add season-long color to the shade thanks to their leaf colors, but variegation fans might want to try variegated Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum odoratum* var. *thunbergii 'Variegatum*). This white-edged, arching perennial both brightens the shade and grows tall and dense enough to choke out all but the biggest, most bullying weeds.

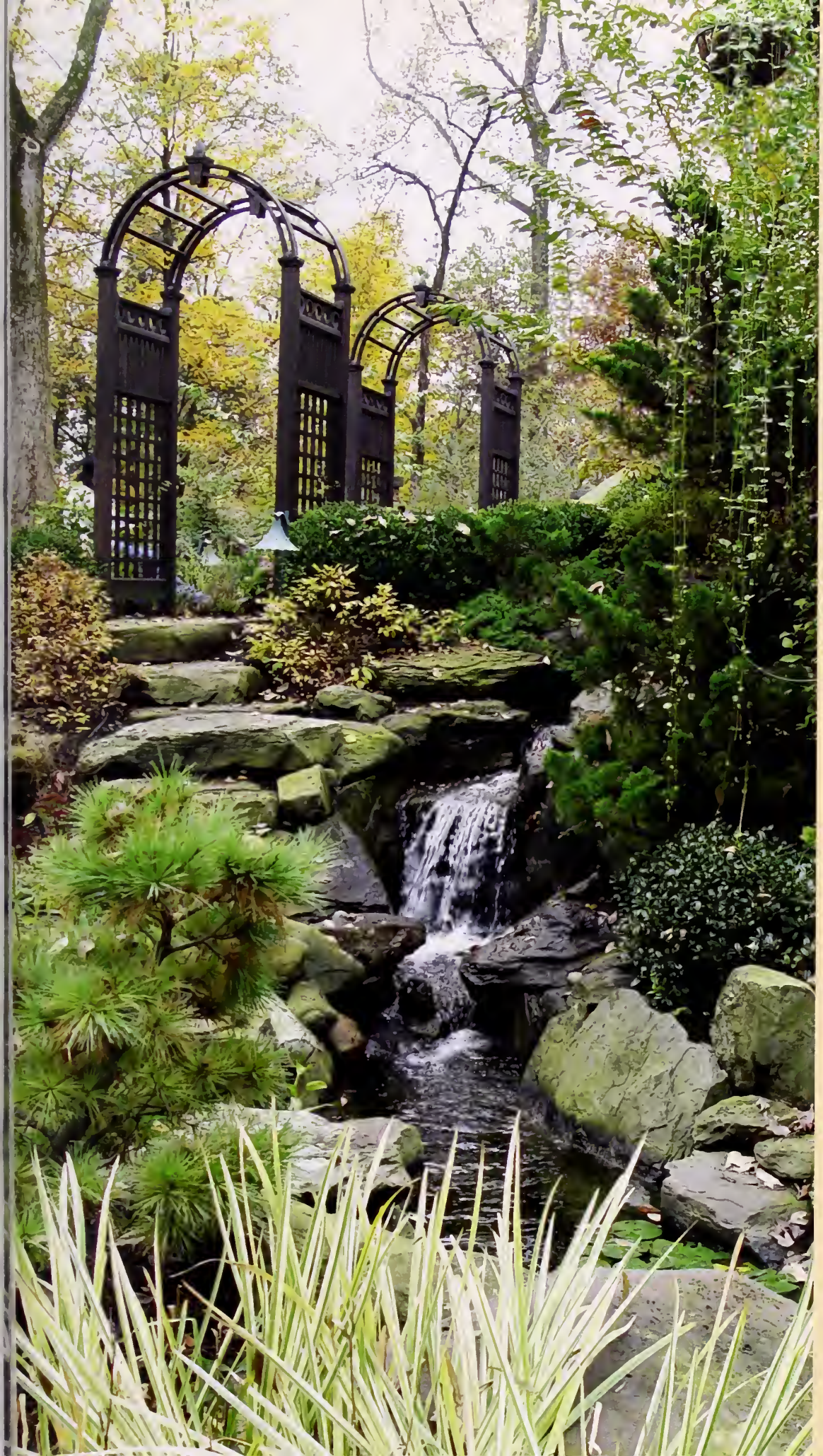
One good way to use these dry-shade heroes is to mix and match them. Have fun experimenting with varying textures and colors, but be sure to plant the taller types closest to the trunk and shorter ones along the perimeter. Examples: use an inner ring of blue hosta surrounded by an outer ring of liriope, or use odd-numbered groupings of variegated Solomon's seal, hellebores, and coral bells toward the inside while ringing the perimeter with barrenwort.

Before planting anything, it helps immensely to loosen the soil as best as you can among the tree roots. Then work 2 or 3 inches of compost or good-quality topsoil into the native soil. This will give your young plants a little elbow room to get started before having to do battle with the more elaborate tree roots.

If at all possible, don't slice into any roots that are index-finger size or larger. It's far wiser and simpler to just plant around them. Disrupting or digging up some of the smaller mats of "feeder" roots is less of a problem because they usually rejuvenate quickly without harming the tree. After planting, it is critical to keep the soil consistently damp until your new plants take hold. Be vigilant with the water the whole first year, and then water every few weeks in droughty weather.

An inch or two of mulch over the planted bed will also help retain soil moisture and keep weeds in check. If you want more structure under and around multiple trees, try a few shrubs that can go face-to-face with their bigger cousins. Forget the landscaper-special azaleas, rhododendrons, and mountain laurels. Although they prefer shade, I've found

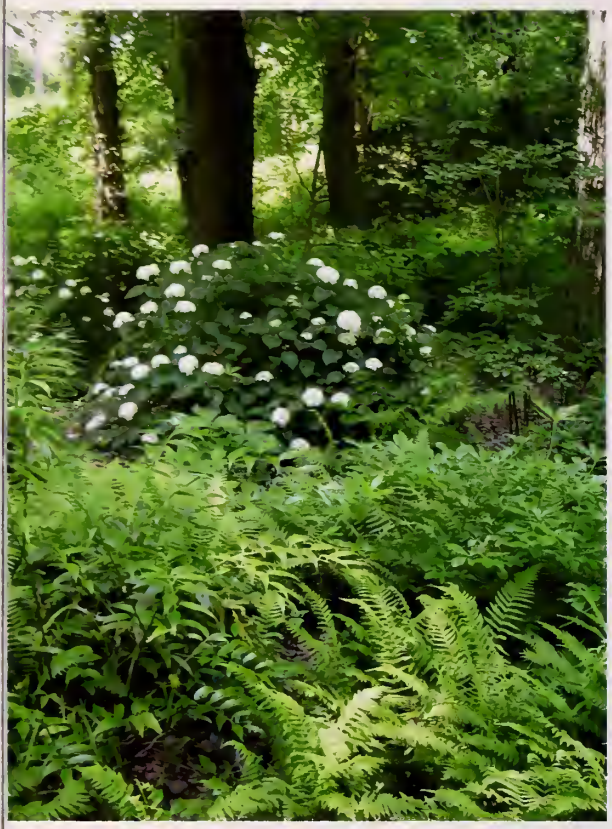




Ten other perennials that tolerate dry shade under big trees:

- **Barren strawberry** *(Waldsteinia fragaroides)*
- **Crested iris** *(Iris cristata)*
- **Dwarf Chinese astilbe** *(Astilbe chinensis* 'Pumila')
- **Goatsbeard** *(Aruncus dioicus)*
- **Green and gold** *(goldenstar)* *(Chrysogonum virginianum)*
- **Hardy geraniums** *(Geranium* sp. and hybrids)
- **Japanese painted fern** *(Athyrium nipponicum* var. *pictum)*
- **Pussy toes** *(Antennaria plantaginea)*
- **Sweet woodruff** *(Asperula odorata)*
- **Woodland phlox** *(Phlox divaricata)*

Left: **One dry-shade sollution is to use landscaping features that don't compete with roots, such as water gardens, paver patios, benches, arbors or several large flower pots.**



Above:
Hydrangea arborescens

they really dislike being transplanted into beds that big trees already rule. This is especially true if you're at all lax with soil care and watering.

Better choices on the evergreen front are dwarf boxwoods: the PHS Gold Medal award-winning glossy spreader sweet box (*Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *humilis*), the trailing juniper look-alike Russian cypress (*Microbiota decussata*), the holly look-alike mahonia (either *M. aquifolium* or *M. bealei*), the common cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), the spreading English yew (*Taxus baccata 'Repandens*), or the deer-resistant yew look-alike Japanese plum yew (*Cephalotaxus harringtonia* var. *drupacea*).

Virginia sweetspires (*Itea virginica*) are surprisingly dry-shade-tolerant and, once established, their fall foliage is stunning. St. Johnswort (*Hypericum* sp.), dwarf fothergilla and some of the new dwarf forsythias are sound deciduous-shrub choices as well.

If you have room to go high under mature, limbed-up trees, consider viburnums, blue hollies, yellow-flowering Japanese kerria and the two most drought-tolerant hydrangea species, oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) and smooth hydrangea (*H. arborescens*).

Growing annual flowers in dry shade is difficult, but placing pots on top of the ground may help. A good way to minimize watering is to sink your pots in the ground. Use plastic pots with holes to provide your wimpy annual roots with a protective barrier from the invading tree roots.

If all else fails, avoid battling the roots by turning the tree area into a sitting area filled with non-root-competitors like a bench, a flagstone pad, a boulder or two, a statue or fountain, a water feature or container water garden, and a few flower pots for color.

All you need then is a glass of iced tea, and that dry shade is now an asset instead of a headache.

George Weigel is garden columnist for *The Patriot-News* in Harrisburg and a Pennsylvania Certified Horticulturist. He is also, as he puts it, "a certified gardening nut."

GREEN scene PHOTO CONTEST

Official Contest Rules

Who May Enter

- Amateur* photographers ages 18 and over. (*Those who earn less than 1/4 of their annual income from photography.)
- Employees of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and its affiliates are not eligible.

Submissions

- Photographers may only enter images as 4x6-inch or 5x7-inch prints, either in color or black-and-white.
- **IMPORTANT:** On the back of each image, you must write your name, address, email and phone. Optional: You may also include technical information about the photograph (camera type, f-stop, speed, film type, etc.), as well as background info.
- Original images may be shot on print film, slides or digital cameras, but all submissions must be submitted as prints, as stated above (no slides or CDs accepted).
- All photographs must be previously unpublished.
- All photos must have been taken within the past three years (since August 1, 2003).
- Photos may eventually be mounted on cardboard, if we choose to display them.
- If you'd like your images returned, please enclose a SASE with your submission.
- Photos that violate or infringe upon another photographer's copyright are not eligible for entry.
- The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is not responsible for loss or damage to any photographs submitted for the contest.

Entry Fees

- Photographers may enter 1 photo for a fee of $15, 2-5 photos for a fee of $25 or 6-10 photos for a fee of $40.
- Fees are non-refundable.

Important Dates

- All entries must be received by PHS by September 1, 2006.
- All winners will be notified by November 1, 2006.

Prizes

- To be announced in the August, 2006 issue of *Green Scene*.

For more information:
For questions about the contest, please email *greenscene@pennhort.org* for fastest response. Yo can also call Dan Moise at 215-988-8871.

Green Scene's Garden Photo Contest



is Back!

Last year, PHS launched the wildly successful *Green Scene* "Garden Photo Contest" and, happily, the contest is now back for 2006.

This year's theme will be **People in the Garden**, and we're hoping to see your best shots of friends, family, gardeners or just everyday nature lovers standing amidst the flowers and foliage. In the next issue, we'll list all the exciting **prizes** you can win!

The contest's judges—all professional photographers and gardeners from the Delaware Valley—will be looking for superb images that capture the beauty of gardening and create a sense of community through horticulture. Winning photos will be published in this year's December/January issue of *Green Scene* magazine and on the PHS website, *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*. (Full prize list to will be published in the August 2006 issue.)

Photos can be shot in any format, ***but must be submitted as 4 x 6 or 5 x 7-inch prints, with your name and phone/email on the back.*** No submissions by email or on CD will be accepted. **The deadline for entries is September 1, 2006.**

For more entry information, official contest rules, and a complete list of submission requirements, please see the June or August issues of *Green Scene* or visit the PHS website, *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*. You can also email *greenscene@pennhort.org* with questions.









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Please mail your entries to: GREEN SCENE PHOTO CONTEST, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 100 N. 20th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495. The contest is open to photographers 18 years and older. To be eligible, all mailed-in entries must be postmarked on or before September 1, 2006.

Warranty and Permission

By sending this photograph(s) to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's *Green Scene* Garden Photo Contest, I warrant that I am the sole author of this photo(s). I grant the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society the right to publish this photo in its publications and electronic newsletters, on its website, and in collateral publications, including, but not limited to promotional materials. I understand that beyond granting PHS these rights, I retain all other rights to this photograph.

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By Rhoda Maurer

The ELEMENTS of CONTAINER DESIGN



Mastering the art of good container design is simply a matter of understanding a few essential elements. We've already discussed the selection of the pots themselves in a prior issue of *Green Scene*. Now let's talk about the use of color, texture, and form in selecting plants. Then you can bring it all together with the pots and the site to create a successful, well-balanced ensemble.

Color preference is subjective, so I won't give recipes for color combinations. Artists and designers spend countless hours studying color theory, but even a novice can become familiar with some of the basic concepts and use these tools to create harmonious combinations. If you are a regular *Green Scene* reader, you are no doubt familiar with the color wheel (read "Seeing Red" in the April 2006 issue). Neighbors on the color wheel blend well together, while complementary colors (opposite each other on the color wheel) contrast, enhance, and intensify each other. The addition of gray, white, or black can have dramatic effects on how we feel and see a color. It also is important to understand that colors are never seen in isolation; each color is affected by the light it receives and by the colors around it. This is one of the reasons why paint chips you bring home from the store can look different on your wall at home. Take into account the natural lighting, colors of the pot, and colors in the site to understand how your finished container will fully impact the viewer.

Monochromatic color schemes, which use many of the hues, tints, and

shades of a single color, are calming to the eye, but they need not be dull. By using colors of contrasting values or textures you can create the illusion of depth. Some of my favorite containers for a calming effect are well-composed monochromatic plantings with high textural and tonal contrast. Incidentally, black and white photography is a great way to study your compositions.

While it is difficult to pass by blooming plants at the nursery, consider selecting plants based upon foliage and think of the flowers they might produce as a bonus. Foliage texture and color will help give the pots interest through the entire growing season and into the fall months. Rotating specimens is fun and adds seasonality, but most gardeners have enough work to do without having to replace finished displays with fresh ones. Careful planning might include some plants with showy seed heads for late-season textural interest.

Many nurseries promote annuals for container planting, but I encourage you to broaden your palate to include perennials, grasses, herbs, ornamental vegetables, and tropical houseplants and cacti. The houseplant section of most garden centers and nurseries offers exciting possibilities. Unless you are featuring a single specimen in your container, you should select one plant for height, others as fillers, and one or more trailing plants to help the pot looked "lived-in." In a mixed container, limit the design to include one major focal point, using height, bold leaves, or striking color. Beginners often make the mistake of placing the focal point in the center of the container. Try positioning the focal point off-center to create a more dynamic arrangement. Or you can create a focal point among a grouping of containers—each planted simply with one specimen.

Good foliage plants for shade include spider plant, cannas, Rex begonias, elephant ears, crinum, bromeliads, *Abutilon megapotamicum*, tree ferns, and philodendrons. Tradescantias, *Alternanthera* cultivars, *Impatiens repens*, *Passiflora sanguiolenta*, and *Cissus discolor* are great trailing plants. For sunnier locations, try cannas and elephant ears, agaves and their relatives, geraniums with colored foliage, *Phormium* cultivars, *Pennisetum* sp., sweet potato vine, passion flower, *Nasella tenuissima*, and clematis. You might also consider using small flowering or fruiting trees and shrubs to add height to large containers. Besides being edible, many basils, kales, chards, and mustards have beautifully colored and textured foliage. A shopping hint: hanging baskets sold at nurseries often can be broken apart into three or more smaller plants and used in multiple containers.

Happy shopping! In the next issue, we will discuss maintenance practices to keep your containers looking great all summer and beyond.

Rhoda Maurer is the plant records supervisor at the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College. She is also the head gardener for a private estate in New Jersey and loves to write, photograph and lecture. You can visit the Scott Arboretum's website at *www.scottarboretum.org*.





Opposite page: **Containers soften walls and paths in a private NJ garden.**

Left: **Analogous flower color used as a design element in a temporary display adds seasonal interest at Scott Arboretum.**

Above: **Complementary colors highlight the furniture in a conservatory outside Chicago.**



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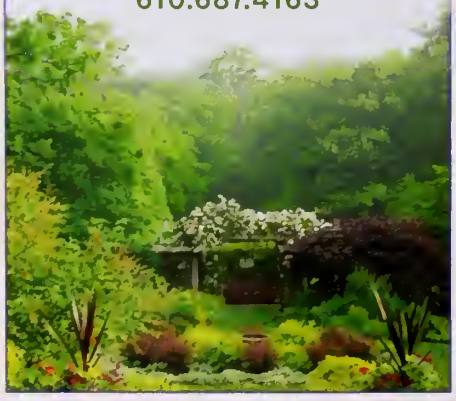
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By Adam Levine

THINKING BIG

Years ago I lived in a Philadelphia neighborhood where the cherries and crabapples flowered in such profusion that their falling petals drifted against the curb like pink snow. Watching these plants produce such beauty so freely excited and amazed me and was one of the hooks that dragged me deeper into horticultural pursuits.

I would not want to live in a world without flowering trees: crabs, cherries, dogwoods, hawthorns, magnolias, and members of various genera, including *Stewartia*, *Syringa*, *Styrax*, *Davidia*, and *Franklinia* (my apologies for the many others left off this list). My dream garden—which is at least a hundred times larger than my current one-eighth of an acre—would include as many of these beauties as my gardening partner would allow.

My dream garden would also include big trees like oaks, sugar maples, tulip poplars, beeches, and ashes, which reach 80 to 100 feet at maturity and make a huge visual impact. In the designed landscapes of gardens and arboreta, lofty trees create both a towering framework for the whole property and offer the necessary shelter for beautiful understory plantings (like smaller, shade-tolerant flowering trees). In residential neighborhoods and other less formal areas, tall trees provide the same framework—though we often take them for granted until a favorite piece of woodland is clear-cut for yet another new development. They also serve as a scrim of greenery that helps soften our view of human-made impositions on the landscape: the buildings, pavements, and utility lines.

Besides their aesthetic value, these grand trees have practical benefits; they absorb more carbon dioxide and emit more oxygen than small trees. They provide more shade and thus more cooling effect, reducing air-conditioning costs for individual houses and entire neighborhoods. Large trees also absorb more pollutants and more effectively slow down stormwater runoff (by capturing rainfall in their generous leaf canopies). Most big trees also live longer, making them a doubly efficient way to replace tree cover lost to development.

Unfortunately, several factors currently favor the planting of smaller trees. They are more readily available at nurseries and are an "easier sell" for landscapers, especially the flowering varieties. Small trees are also preferred for municipal street-tree planting programs, mainly because they are petite enough to grow under utility lines. To me, this begs the question: why not plant at least some of the trees away from the wires and the edge of the street (where they often get banged up by automobiles)? While this may involve more planning, such as canvassing a neighborhood to find property owners with yards fronting on the street who would be willing to take responsibility for a young tree, to my mind it would be worth the effort.

The results of such plantings—with some shorter trees under the wires and taller trees on the wire-less side of the street and in front yards—would be less uniform than that classic image of American arboriculture: majestic elms gently towering over Main Street. But that image long ago succumbed to more than just Dutch elm disease, dating as it does from an era before utility lines took precedence over trees. The undeniable fact is that any tree, short or tall, whose limbs extend anywhere near these lines is at risk of being cut back by utility-hired arborists who seek to protect the "air rights" around and above the wires.

On the positive side, in many new developments utility lines are now run underground, allowing developers to plant large trees along the streets. But even here, many homeowners still choose small trees for their individual properties.

If we fail to plant big trees in numbers sufficient to replace older ones as they die off, we are in danger of leaving behind a legacy of lollipop trees that, at maturity, will stand barely as high as our houses. Trees, like the ceiling of a cathedral, should loom over us, make us feel small and humble and grateful for the chance to commune with some of the largest living things on earth. Planting any tree is a good thing, but planting a large tree—one that will reach maturity long after we have returned to dust—is a horticultural mitzvah, a good deed of the highest order.

For more information on planting trees in Southeastern Pennsylvania, contact TreeVitalize at *www.treevitalize.net* or call Patrice Carroll at 215-988-8874.

ADAM LEVINE, CO-AUTHOR OF *THE PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW: CELEBRATING 175 YEARS*, IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORIAN WHO LIVES IN MEDIA, PA. HIS WEB SITE IS *WWW.PHILLYH2O.ORG*.

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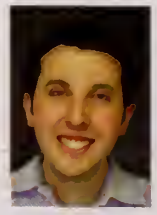
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GROWING with GARDEN TENDERS



By Daniel Moise

Once a week this past February, Michelle Tencza hopped in her car and headed down to Philadelphia for PHS's Garden Tenders class. Although the two-hour trek from her hometown in northern New Jersey was arduous at times, Michelle wasn't willing to miss a single meeting.

Michelle's enthusiasm is typical of the 2,000 men and women who have become Garden Tenders. Now in its eleventh year, the PHS project hopes to add to its ranks with spring and summer sessions.

Initiation into Garden Tenders starts with the basic training course designed for community groups and individuals who want to improve their neighborhoods by turning vacant lots into community gardens. Participants attend five classroom sessions and take a tour of the city's finest neighborhood green spaces.

"We started Garden Tenders to serve those who wanted to beautify and utilize the vacant land in their neighborhood. If they have the drive, we provide the knowledge and resources to create something extraordinary," says Sally McCabe, project coordinator at PHS and head instructor for the course.

Garden Tenders is as much about organization and networking as it is about horticulture. Graduates will have assembled all the portfolios, plans, and petitions that are essential in getting such a tremendous undertaking off—or in—the ground. Garden Tenders also stresses the importance of maintenance and appropriate care to ensure a garden's sustainability.

As a result of Garden Tenders, more than 100 community gardens have been established—a fifth of the city's total. Instrumental to these successes is the Neighborhood Gardens Association/A Philadelphia Land Trust. NGA helps community groups research the ownership of unused land and, in some cases, has helped community groups purchase garden plots to protect them from development.

Sally McCabe and the Garden Tenders



Incredible neighborhood improvements have occurred due to the gardens. For instance, take the Thompson Street Senior Peace Garden, established by Debbie Thomas in North Fairmount. To counter the drug trafficking and vandalism that was plaguing her neighborhood, Debbie decided to take Garden Tenders basic training, secure a vacant space, and be the catalyst for change. Now the lot is attracting the *right* kind of attention, and residents are reveling in the bistro-style seating, rows of fresh herbs, and stunning mosaics.

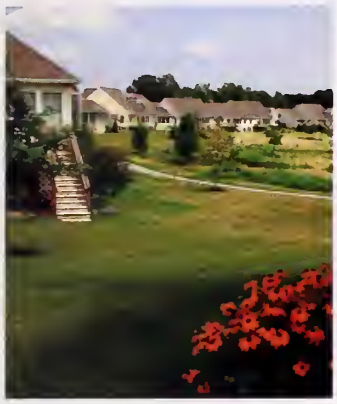
"Garden Tenders has improved the lives of so many of us, especially in the neighborhoods that have problems with drugs and violence. The gardens give us hope that things can and will get better," Debbie says. "I go to each incoming Garden Tenders class to tell my story and let them know all they're capable of."

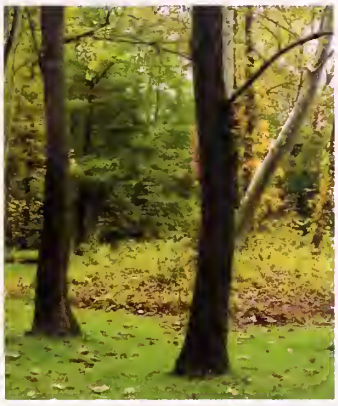
Debbie proves that even after training is complete, Garden Tenders remains an important part of the graduates' lives. Alumni often call each other to pass on helpful gardening tips or news of a great plant sale. They also partake in the continuing education opportunities PHS offers, such as the City Gardening Series and Garden Tenders' Third Thursday workshops, which run from March through December.

"I've made some really good friends at basic training. Together we visit parks and arboretums and help each other with our gardens. It's a great support system," says Garden Tenders graduate Corrine Fields, whose Lindenwood Gardens has done wonders for Southwest Philadelphia.

"I've been doing this type of work for nearly 30 years, and I'm still amazed at the good will it generates," Sally says. "At Garden Tenders we love to help people who are willing to help themselves, their neighborhoods, and the city."

If you or a friend would like to get involved with Garden Tenders, please contact the Education Services department at PHS. Please call 215-988-8846 or visit *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*.





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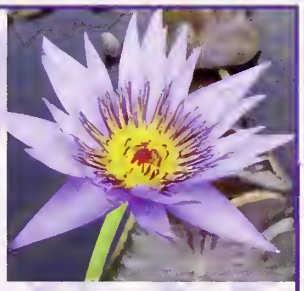
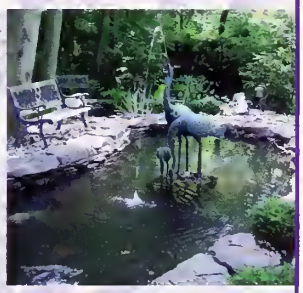
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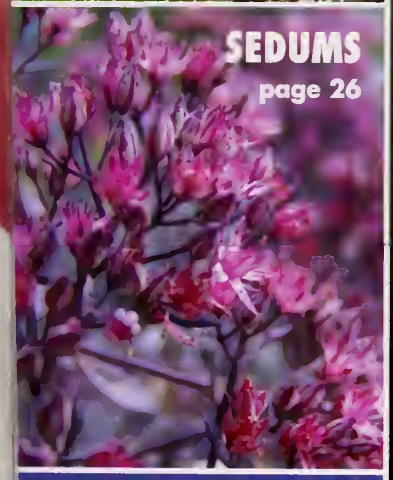
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10 **Mullin' Over Verbascums**
When it comes to practicality and purposefulness, few flowers match up to verbascum, commonly known as mullein. Various parts of the plant have been used in ingenious ways, serving as shoe liners, hair dye, and medicine. Oh yeah, it's a dazzling addition to the garden, too! Allow Ilene Sternberg to shed some light on this underappreciated perennial species.



20 **The Bonsai Man**
Jim Doyle knows a thing or two about bonsai. As owner of Nature's Way Nursery, he has raised hundreds of miniature marvels in the past three decades. Join writer George Weigel as he interviews the modest master and learns the secrets to his success. With some basic instruction (and a lot of patience), you too can partake in the artistry of bonsai.

26 **Sedum? You Need 'Em!**
When it comes to Mid-Atlantic gardens, sedums are jacks of all trades. Whether edging a rock garden, lighting up the fall border, or serving as a groundcover, the perennial has become a staple for many. But beyond versatility, sedums boast some of the wildest names in horticulture. Eric Hsu explains how no garden is complete without 'Hot Stuff', 'Blue Elf', and other colorful characters.



16 **Drought Busters**
If you're wrung out by drought's detrimental effects on your garden, why not try a different tack—grow cacti! Jessie Keith shows how these darlings of the desert are well equipped for August's driest days. These tough cookies are beautiful, too. One look at the brightly hued flowers will have you hooked.



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The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

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AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

Helenium autumnale



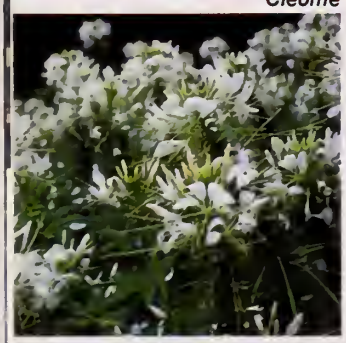
Anemone 'Honorine Jobert'



Acer triflorum



Cleome



Late summer in the garden is the best of times and the worst of times. On the positive side, August and September are the ideal time for harvesting vegetables and enjoying summer-flowering annuals that have reached their zenith. On the other hand, it can be painfully hot and dry, and many flowering perennials are simply exhausted by this time. What's a gardener to do?

We asked some of the staff at PHS what plants they enjoy at this time of year and picked up some tips for this dry, quiet time of year. Says Philadelphia Green landscape architect Marilyn Romenesko, "I absolutely love *Helenium autumnale*, also known as Helen's flower and sneezeweed. Mine is a gorgeous red-orange color with the most interesting globose receptacle in the center. The receptacle changes in color from brown to streaked yellow to spotted yellow and finally solid yellow. The petals are almost like a skirt around this structure.

"There are also cultivars of various heights in colors ranging from light yellow to mahogany to bronze red. This helenium likes moist soil and full sun. It gets fairly large—40 inches high and wide—and it blooms for about 3 to 4 weeks. I enjoy taking close-up photographs of this flower in its various stages of development."

Adds Linda Walczak, another landscape architect in PHS's Public Landscapes department, "One of my current favorite plants for the August/September garden is an old favorite, *Anemone* 'Honorine Jobert'. I find the clear, bright single-white flowers with their vivid yellow centers refreshing on a warm, September day. The large, coarse-textured leaves of its base make a striking contrast to the slender, elegant flower stalks that rise above them. 'Honorine Jobert' tends to surprise me toward the end of the season. Whether adding highlights to a shade garden or complementing more traditional late-season plants in a sunnier location, I am always happy to rediscover it."

PHS News editor Jane Carroll looks to bigger specimens for late-summer enjoyment: "My husband and I couldn't be happier with the three-flower maple (*Acer triflorum*) we planted last fall. After talking to colleagues at PHS and researching trees on the Internet, we chose this petite maple to replace an aged, diseased apple tree in our back yard. A PHS Gold Medal plant, it fits nicely into our small garden and brings a splash of color to the late summer and fall garden, eventually turning a gorgeous deep orange."

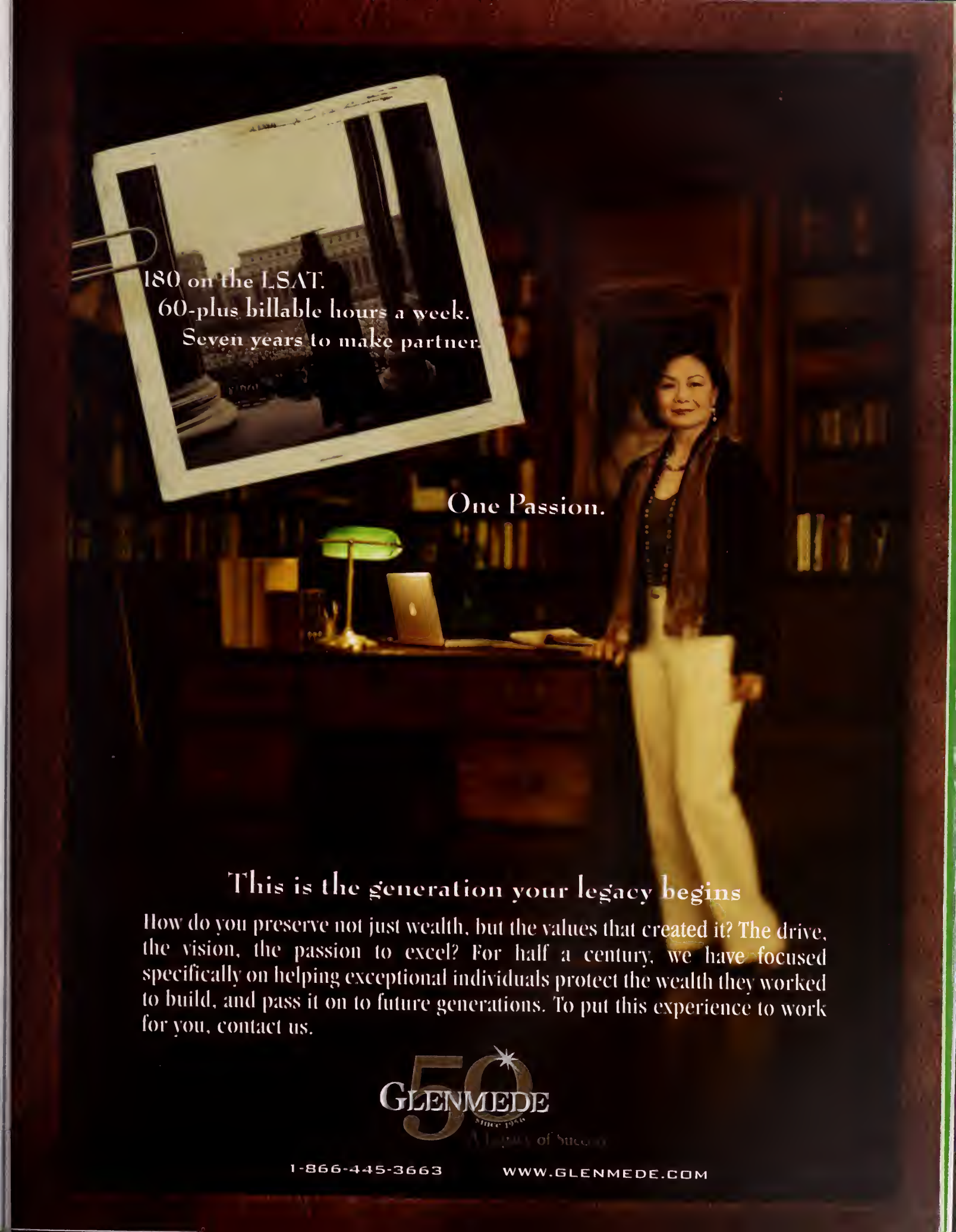
In my own plantings, I turn to the simple annual *Cleome* to get me through the dog days of August. Aside from its tall, graceful habit, I love the way it self-sows and also provides lots of seeds for me to sprinkle in other beds for the following year. Another favorite is the crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*). I planted a pair of hardy varieties two years ago, and they finally bloomed last year in early August with deep pink panicles. I'd definitely like to see more crape myrtles throughout the Delaware Valley; they provide much-needed color in a period when most trees are simply green.

Another late-summer favorite of mine is actually that venerable star of late spring, roses. Many rose varieties return for one last, dazzling hurrah in September. This final flush is not as full as the spring one, but it's a glorious moment nevertheless. The temperatures are finally starting to cool, and the roses are putting on a nice show to celebrate the moment. And don't forget all the ornamental grasses that reach perfection at this time.

Indeed, many plants and gardens in our region look their best in September—something overlooked by a lot of gardeners. For many of us, life gets busy again after Labor Day, but if you stop and look around, you'll be rewarded by some of the best blossoms of the season.

Pete Brown

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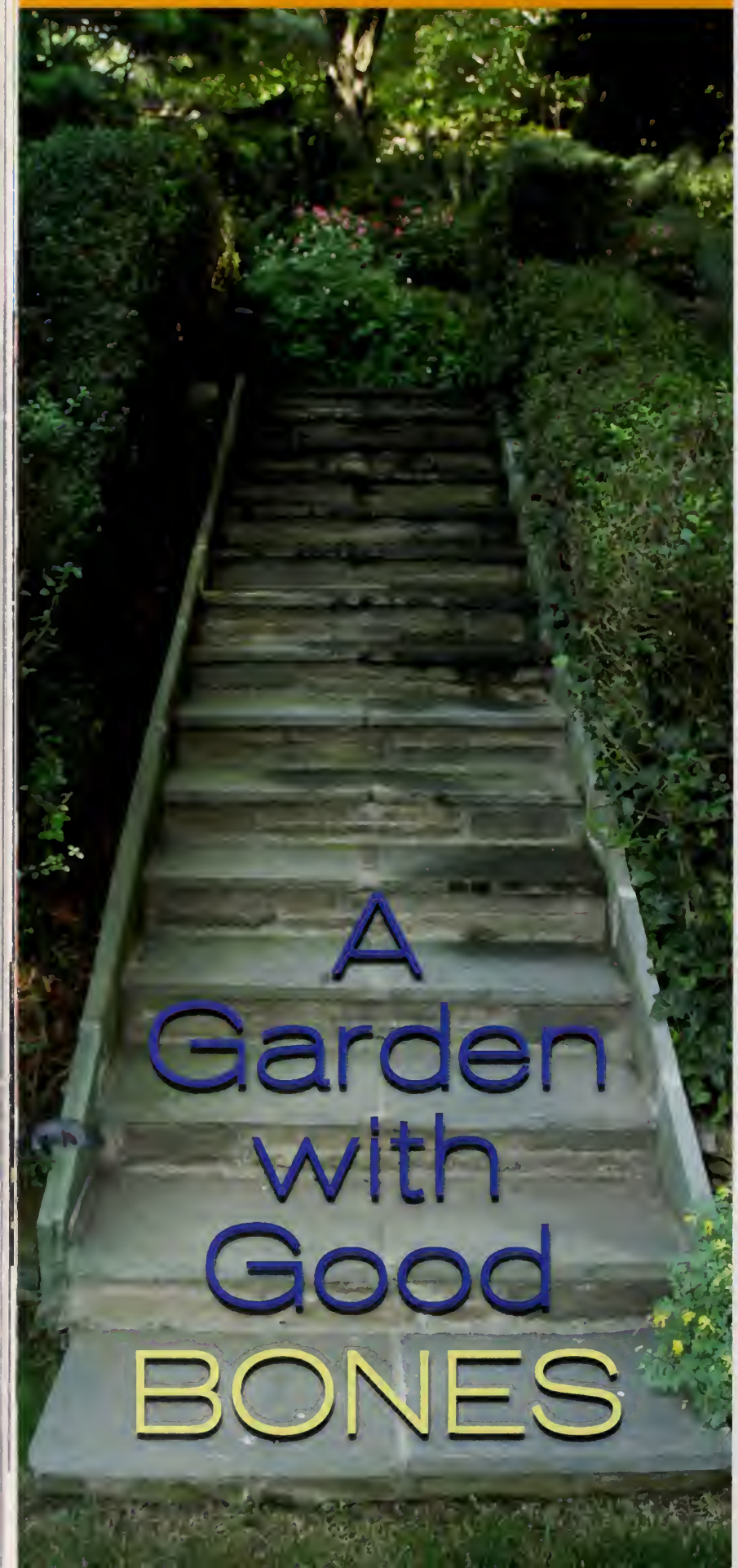


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A Garden with Good BONES

Leaning on her washing machine and holding a framed photograph in her hands, Liz Schumacher points to the "before" status of her Gulph Mills, PA property, where she and her husband Ralph moved in the late '60s.

A steep-looking slope with a few rudimentary walls, this one-acre uphill space—deemed "unsavable" and "unworkable" by neighbors—even turned off landscapers. "I think they looked at us and said this is a lost cause," Schumacher recalls. "It took us a long time."

Today, however, the award-winning, multi-tiered garden is esteemed by many for its strong "bones."

"The term 'bones' mean it has good structure," Schumacher explains, spanning the carefully planned expanse of stone walls, greenery, and ornamentation. "The lines have to be strong because plants go every which way."

Schumacher's first move in creating a solid structure was to plant groundcovers and trees—a recommendation from a Swiss landscaper who was apparently unfazed by hills.

"You have to think about tree shape and bark texture," says Schumacher, adding that gardeners should research what trees and other plants will look like year-round. Her garden includes a *Katsura*, whose foliage turns an apricot color in the fall. "Most of the trees here have nice bark."

Schumacher then replaced the crumbling stone walls. Shrubs, stone staircases, and even a purple jungle gym—first used by her children and now coveted by her grandchildren—were also added to anchor the space.

A view from the ground level barely does the garden justice. Multiple staircases lead visitors through six landings, including a stroll garden with skipping stones, a pond and hammock area, and a tea house. Each space has its own carefully placed garden ornament.

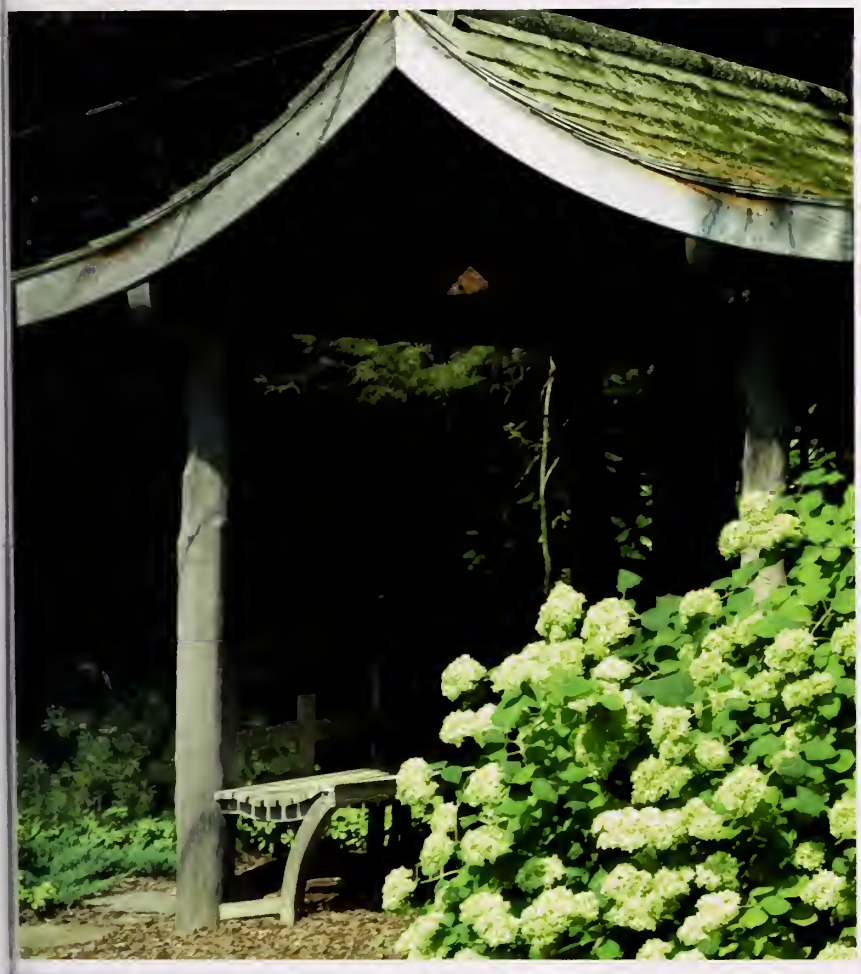
"Garden art expresses your style," says Schumacher, who opened her own garden-ornament business, Garden Designs Inc., in West Conshohocken in 1979. "The key is quality, not quantity. You can get carried away with too many garden ornaments. You should use them in the context of garden design."

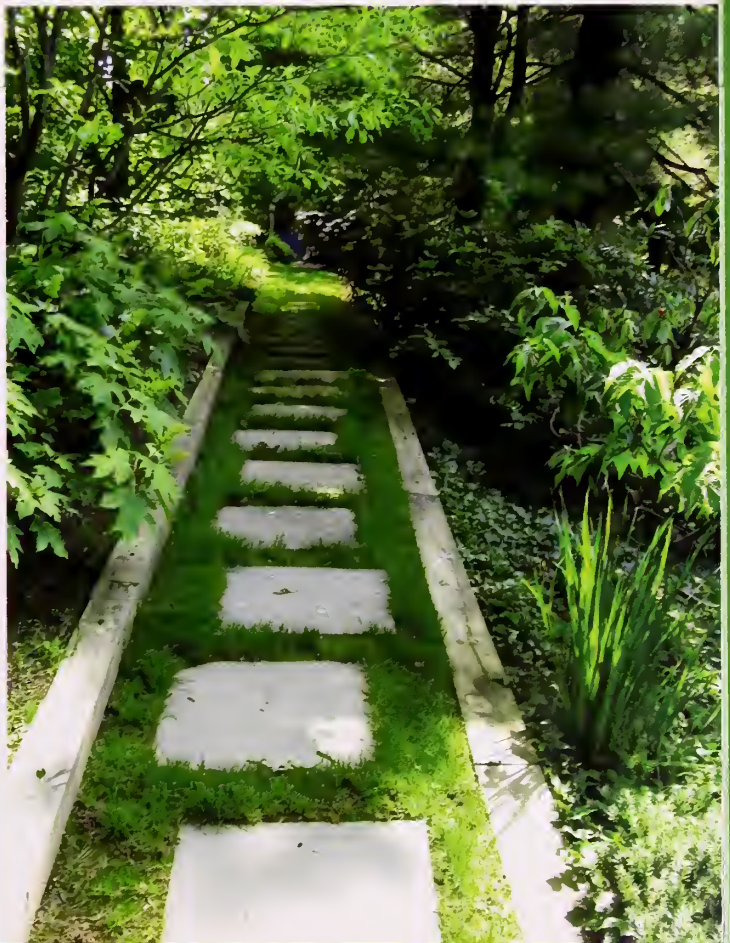
She says another way to create good bones is to take advantage of your site's views. "My garden seems a lot bigger because of all the levels. I don't think you have this many areas of interest on a flat surface. I love looking through the garden to something beyond. That gives you depth and makes you want to explore the garden more."

—Laura Beitman









"The term 'BONES'
mean it has GOOD STRUCTURE.
The DESIGN LINES have to
be STRONG because plants go every
which way."

The Potting Shed

Where I Shop

FLORAL & HARDY
4007 Skippack Pike
Skippack, PA
610-584-0797



"When I need (okay, *want*) new plants, my favorite local nursery is Floral and Hardy. It's an attractive store with an interesting plant selection and fun gifts. I especially like the way their plant inventory changes frequently. You can go back every few weeks and find new varieties to buy; it's not just the same ol' thing week after week. Plus they sell chocolate-covered sesame seeds. I can't get enough of those."

—Stephanie Cohen, horticulturist and author

Where do you shop? We'd like to hear about the small nurseries and florists in PA, NJ, and northern Delaware where you buy your plants and flowers. In less than 150 words, please describe why you like this shop. Mail to: Green Scene, 100 N. 20th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 or email it to: *greenscene@pennhort.org*

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS from the PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW



Photo by Amy Sutryn

In this new feature, we'll present a selection of flower arrangements from the 2006 Philadelphia Flower Show. The goal is to showcase the kinds of artistry involved in the designs, as well as share ideas on what you can do in your own arrangements, either at home or when entering the 2007 Show. For more information, visit *www.theflowershow.com*

Class: Pedestals

Title Theme: Urban Elegance

Arranger: Lee LaPonte (Garden Club of Nashville)

Plants: *Phalaenopsis* orchids, Egyptian papyrus, bleached ting-ting

Ribbon: Blue

Judges' Comment: "A spectacular interpretation of rhythm and depth."

GREEN scene PHOTO CONTEST

Official Contest Rules

Who May Enter

- Amateur* photographers ages 18 and over. (*Those who earn less than 1/4 of their annual income from photography.)
- Employees of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and its affiliates are not eligible.

Submissions

- Photographers may *only* enter images as 4x6-inch or 5x7-inch prints, either in color or black-and-white.
- **IMPORTANT:** On the back of each image, you must write your name, address, email and phone. *Optional*: You may also include technical information about the photograph (camera type, f-stop, speed, film type, etc.), as well as background info.
- Original images may be shot on print film, slides or digital cameras, but all submissions must be submitted as prints, as stated above (no slides or CDs accepted).
- All photographs must be previously unpublished.
- All photos must have been taken within the past three years (since August 1, 2003).
- Photos may eventually be mounted on cardboard, if we choose to display them.
- If you'd like your images returned, please enclose a SASE with your submission.
- Photos that violate or infringe upon another photographer's copyright are not eligible for entry.
- The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is not responsible for loss or damage to any photographs submitted for the contest.

Entry Fees

- Photographers may enter 1 photo for a fee of $15, 2-5 photos for a fee of $25 or 6-10 photos for a fee of $40. Fees are non-refundable.

Prizes

1st Nikon L4 Digital Camera, one-year PHS Membership, and publication of your photo.
2nd *The Philadelphia Flower Show* coffee table book and publication of your photo.
3rd One-year PHS Membership and publication of your photo.
Honorable Mentions (10): Publication of your photo and a special PHS gift.

*Publication will occur in PHS's *Green Scene* magazine (JAN/FEB, 2007) and on the PHS website.

Important Dates

- Entries must be received by Sept. 15, 2006.
- Winners will be notified by Nov. 15, 2006.

For more information:
For questions about the contest, please email *greenscene@pennhort.org* for fastest response. You can also call Dan Moise at 215-988-8871.

Enter the 2006 "Garden Photo Contest"!



RITZ CAMERA & IMAGE

Enter the *Green Scene* "Garden Photo Contest" and win this **Nikon Coolpix L4 Digital Camera** from

This year's theme is **People in the Garden**, and we're hoping to see your best shots of friends, family, gardeners or just everyday nature lovers standing amidst the flowers and foliage. You can also enter your favorite **Flower Close-ups**, **Garden** and **Landscape** shots or other **Nature** images.

The contest's judges—all professional photographers and gardeners from the Delaware Valley—will be looking for superb images that capture the beauty of gardening and create a sense of community through horticulture. Winning photos will be published in the January/February 2007 issue of *Green Scene* magazine and on the PHS website, ***www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org.***

Photos can be shot in any format, but *must be submitted as 4 x 6 or 5 x 7-inch prints, with your name and phone/email on the back.* No submissions by email or on CD will be accepted. The **deadline for entries is September 15, 2006.**

For more information, please visit the PHS website at ***www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*** or email ***greenscene@pennhort.org*** with questions.






ENTRY FORM (please fill out completely)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP_____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

ENTRY FEES

Amount (check one):

1 photo ($15) ❒ 2-5 photos ($25) ❒ 6-10 photos ($40) ❒

Payment Option: Check ❒ (payable to PHS) Credit Card ❒ Credit card type: Visa ❒ MasterCard ❒ Amex ❒ Discover ❒

Card Number: _____ Card Expiration Date: _____

Please mail your entries to: GREEN SCENE PHOTO CONTEST, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 100 N. 20th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495. The contest is open to photographers 18 years and older. To be eligible, all mailed-in entries must be postmarked on or before September 15, 2006.

Warranty and Permission

By sending this photograph(s) to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's *Green Scene* Garden Photo Contest, I warrant that I am the sole author of this photo(s). I grant the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society the right to publish this photo in its publications and electronic newsletters, on its website, and in collateral publications, including, but not limited to promotional materials. I understand that beyond granting PHS these rights, I retain all other rights to this photograph.

_____ _____

Printed Name Signature

Exciting New VERBASCUMS



Story by
Ilene Sternberg



Photo by Rob Cardillo

Right: **'Helen Johnson'**

Opposite page:
'Southern Charm'

"I've been out shooting verbascums all day for your *Green Scene* story," says Chris Hansen, who works for Terra Nova Nurseries in Oregon. "Gee, are they tough to gun down?" I wondered. Quite the contrary, it seems. Commonly known as mullein, the genus *Verbascum* is today easier to find and more in vogue than ever before. Referring to one of their common names, they're not your "granny's flannels" anymore.

Actually, the word "mullein"—based on "muleyn," the old English word for "woolen"—comes from the Latin word *mollis*, or "soft," as in "mollify." A genus of some 300 biennial and perennial species, the soft leaves of the common roadside weed *Verbascum thapsis* were often used to line shoes, a precursor to Dr. Scholl's footpads. A renowned local horticulturist who insists on remaining anonymous informed me that an additional use for the velvety leaves is responsible for another of its common names, "camper's delight." (Use your imagination.)

Out West, verbascum was called "miner's candle," as its dried leaves are highly flammable. In fact, mullein leaves and stems became oil lamp wicks. Dried flower spikes dipped in tallow provided the blazing torches carried by French peasants in pre-Revolution uprisings. Hence, more folk names: "candlewick" and "torch." Witches were said to use fiery mulleins in their incantations, offering yet another name, "hag's taper."

Verbascums contain hesperidin, which has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, plus B vitamins, vitamin D, choline, PABA, sulfur, and magnesium. They have emollient, sedative, narcotic, astringent, analgesic, fungicidal, germicidal, antihistaminic, and other therapeutic virtues, so Puritans brought mullein seeds to America in the early 1600s for their medicinal herb gardens. Herbalists still treat a multitude of ailments utilizing all parts of the plant. Aristotle noted, however, that mullein seed cast into the water will kill fish, but apparently not those who eat them. Although catching fish this way was outlawed in Germany several centuries earlier, German immigrants brought seed here in the 1700s for just that purpose. Mullein also contains *coumarin*, the anti-coagulant used in rat poison, and in rotenone, a pesticide.

Verbascum also functioned as a dye. Roman ladies once colored their hair yellow with mullein flowers steeped in lye. Flowers boiled in water with dilute sul-



Photo by Rob Cardillo

phuric acid results in a green dye, brown with the addition of alkalis.

Okay, so you're not interested in dying your hair green. You just want a pretty flower for your garden? Garden writer Ken Druse, Sunshine Farm & Gardens nurseryman Barry Glick and other fervent gardeners like Wilmington's Eve Thyrum might recommend *Verbascum chaixii* (pronounced shay´-zee-eye), a southern European native with both yellow- and white-flowered forms, each with pretty yellow-orange, pollen-tipped purple stamens. Glick loves the white one, 'Album'. He says he's been growing it for years, that it comes true from seed and is perennial, and that it grows very well in sun or shade.

West Chester gardener John Swan says, "My favorites are *V. bombyciferum* 'Silver Lining' which makes a tall, elegant show with its pure yellow flowers and white felted leaves and stem; *V. nigrum*, a two-foot-tall perennial bearing clusters of dusky yellow flowers with dark eyes; and *V. dumulosum*, a lovely plant with cup-shaped, rich yellow blossoms that needs drainage and is a spreader in rock walls."

Purple mullein (*Verbascum phoeniceum*), one of the primary parents of modern hybrids, is short lived and often treated as an annual. Flowering purple in the wild, it tends to produce variable offspring in cultivation. Promiscuous garden trollops that they are, mulleins produce volunteer seedlings with changeable characteristics. Interbreeding with long-lived *V. chaixii* or *V. olympicum* (another garden favorite) and any other willing verbascum species or cultivar, many hybrids have been discovered by chance in gardens.

Below:
Verbascum* and *Stachys

Photo by Rob Cardillo





The Barnes Foundation

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OPEN ENROLLMENT – Classes start Sept. 2006





Barnes Foundation Horticultural Classes 2006–2007

In 1940, Laura Barnes established the Arboretum School to provide students of horticulture, botany, and landscape architecture the opportunity to work under professional guidance.

This fall, the Arboretum School of The Barnes Foundation will accept twenty-five new first-year students. The three-year program in ornamental horticulture offers a comprehensive curriculum of botany, plant propagation, practical horticulture techniques, and landscape design.

A well-trained faculty provides expert instruction and guidance in the horticultural arts and sciences. Students learn and practice in the 12-acre arboretum and in the state-of-the-art greenhouse in Merion.

The curriculum develops skilled horticulturalists through a combination of classroom lecture, self-directed learning, and hands-on practice.

Horticulture

For more information, a full course description, and registration, please call 610-667-0290, ext. 2259 or ext. 1071.

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DOUBLE-FLOWERED PEONY COLLECTION

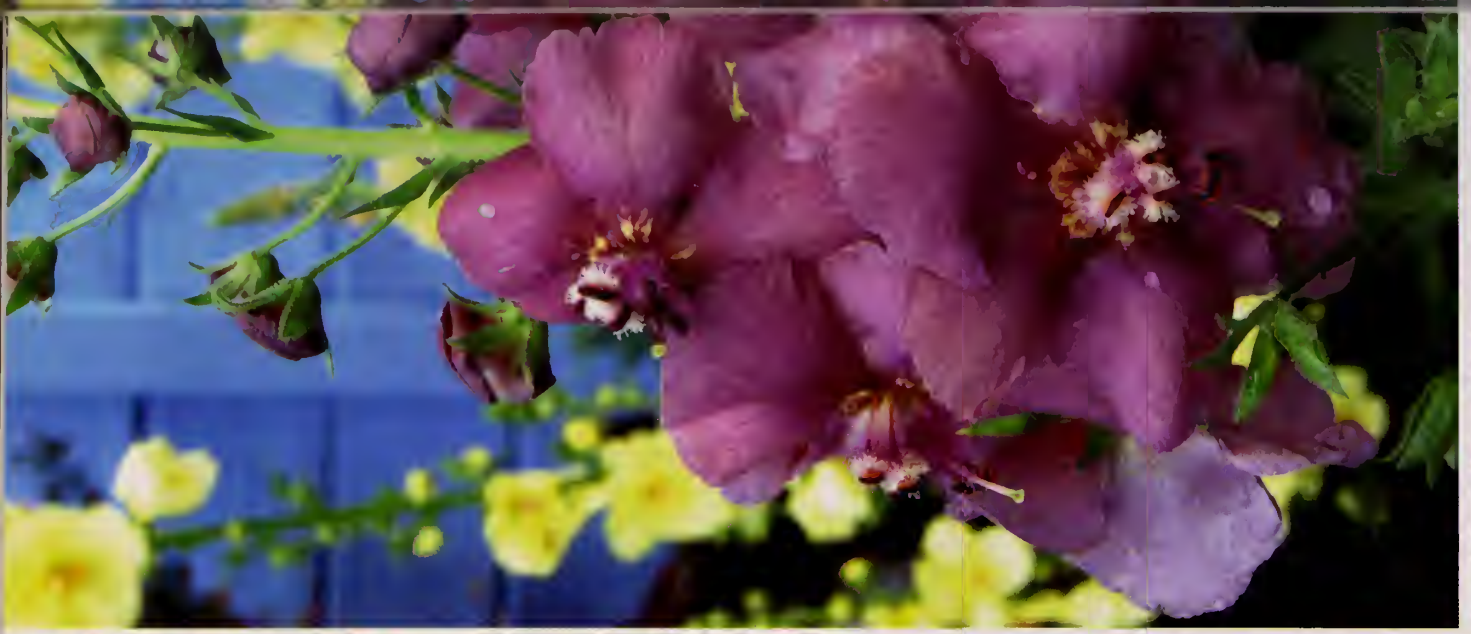
A trio of beauties for the garden and the vase

The huge blooms, gentle fragrance, and glossy foliage of Peonies should be an essential ingredient of every perennial garden. If you would like to enjoy one of nature's loveliest and longest-loved plants without paying the price for the most recent varieties, here's your opportunity. Our Old-time Peony Collection includes three double-flowered plants, one each of a red, a white, and a pink, not labeled by name. We ship large roots with 3–5 eyes, at the right time for fall planting in your area, with detailed instructions included. To place your order for item F83543, $26 plus shipping, visit our Web site whiteflowerfarm.com or call us at 1-800-503-9624. Please mention Source Code 62051.

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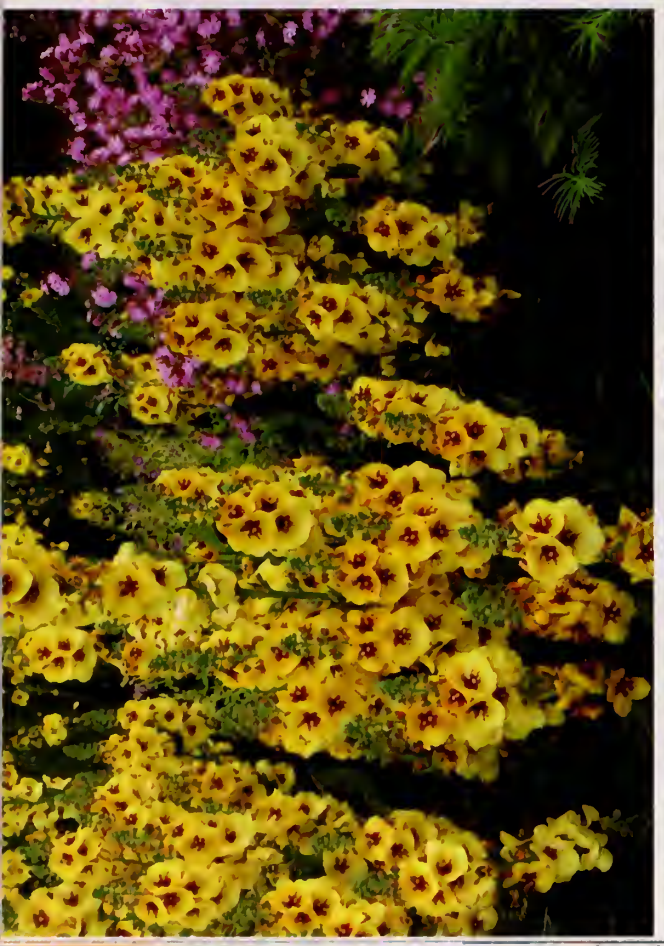


Photo by Rob Cardillo



Photos on this spread courtesy of Terra Nova, except where noted.

Further cross-pollination and laboratory tampering to replicate desirable traits and intensify hues begets favorable results.

Druse says he perpetuated 'Southern Charm' from root cuttings with great success; it's a dainty, frequently seed-grown hybrid that comes in shades of buff, lavender, and soft rose. "I took cuttings in March as soon as the soil thawed, and others in autumn after the frost, and refrigerated them. Both worked. I got flowers by June." Just recently he announced: "'Southern Charm' is back for a fifth year!"

Terra Nova's noted plant breeder Dan Heims refers to his hybrids as "The New Verbascum." What makes them different? "They are vigorous, quite hardy, sterile, have an extraordinary number of flowers, exceptional branching, and they'll rebloom if cut back after the first show." Of course, he may be a bit biased, but his creation 'Gold Nugget' halted my sprint through a nursery the other day, the only plant that caught my eye. It's one of Dan's personal favorites, along with 'Lavender Lass', 'Sugar Plum', 'Dark Eyes' (a dwarf cultivar.) His tips: "Drainage, drainage, drainage! No clay! Raise them up when planting and don't use a lot of fertilizer."

Mulleins range from 8 inches to 8 feet, have long taproots, usually flower in July and August, and like a sunny location. Verbascums make outstanding border performers and add a vertical accent. Scott Arboretum director Claire Sawyers says, "Verbascums have made a dramatic addition to our texture-focused Nason Garden, where we've tried to contrast fine-textured plants, such as ornamental grasses and needled conifers, with bold foliage and architectural character. Verbascums have both—bold leaves and spires of flowers, a fun attention-getter."

In Europe and Asia, mullein was considered a sure safeguard against evil spirits and magic. Homer's Odysseus took some along for protection against the wiles of Circe. There must be some truth to its evil-repellent powers, as it's deer-proof, snail-proof, pretty much goof-proof, and drought tolerant to boot. It is subject to spider mites, but perhaps the ancients never encountered that particular evil. Use organic controls to eliminate them.

Local PA horticulturist Stephanie Cohen, the "Dr. Root of Perennials," says, "When I first taught my students about verbascum 20 years ago, it was one of my least favorite plants—limited colors and spindly spikes with few flowers. In the last five-to-seven years, due to lots of interest and breeding, colors range from soft pastels to hot and wow! The flowers are bigger and showier. The verbascums available for today's garden definitely have lots to offer to modern gardeners."

Ilene Sternberg's latest book is *Best Garden Plants for Pennsylvania*, co-written with Alison Beck. For a review, see "The Gardener's Bookshelf" on page 35.



Opposite page clockwise from top left:

'Gold Nugget'

'Plum Smokey'

'Lavender Lass'

'Southern Charm'

Left: **'Sugar Plum'**





HARDY CACTI

Green Weapons Against Drought

Drought is the bane of the gardening world, and Pennsylvanians have dealt with their fair share of parching, listless weather in recent years. Beyond watering like mad or pounding the dry earth with frustration during mandatory water restrictions, what's a gardener to do?

Fortunately, you can cure your drought despair by entering the summer prepared with a few xerophytes (plants adapted to dry conditions). Of these, nothing can outperform the most high-tech of water-efficient plants, hardy cacti. Several prickly pear, barrel cactus, and ball cactus grow well here. Some are even regional natives!

True cacti are members of CACTACEAE. Exclusive to the New World, members of this family have three key traits: succulent green stems with a waxy, water-impermeable epidermis (skin), spines and/or barbed bristles called glochids (both modified leaves), and showy flowers with many overlapping petals and whorls of stamens. They thrive in the harshest environments, including the dry mountain ridges of the Colorado Rockies and California's sweltering Mojave Desert.

PRICKLY PEAR CACTI

Opuntia, commonly called prickly pear or cholla, has 200 temperate and tropical species. These have interconnected paddle-shaped or linear pads and big yellow, orange, red, or pink flowers followed by balloon-shaped fruit that is often red and edible. Plants spread slowly as pads break off and form roots.

Years ago, my grandmother planted the midwestern twist-spine prickly pear (*Opuntia macrorhiza*) in her southern Indiana garden. It was the first time I'd seen a hardy garden cactus. Before her house was sold last year, I transplanted some of these easy-to-grow, gold-flowering plants to a sandy raised bed in my Delaware garden.

Native to south central and eastern Pennsylvania, Devil's tongue (*Opuntia humifusa*) has bright yellow flowers followed by edible red fruit. Plants reach 12 inches high and have small, non-threatening spines. Since it tolerates salt, you'll also find it along Maryland's Eastern Shore. Mine thrive in a hot sandy spot near the sidewalk.

Tulip prickly pear (*Opuntia phaeacantha*) has fierce spines and large flowers of yellow, orange, pink, or red (depending on the variant) followed by brick-red fruit. Despite its pointy demeanor, this very cool plant can be visually softened by snow-in-summer (*Cerastium tomentosum*) or Mexican feath-

Opposite page top:
Opuntia humifusa

Opposite page bottom:
Apricot and yellow
Opuntia phaeacantha



Story & photography by Jessie Keith

RESOURCES:

Bob Smoley's Gardenworld
3720 SW 183rd Terrace
Dunnellon, FL 34432
www.bobsmoleys.com

High Country Gardens
2902 Rufina Street
Santa Fe, NM 87507
www.highcountrygardens.com

Beaver Creek Greenhouses
PMB#364-4155
Deep Lake Boundary Road
Colville, WA 99114
www.rockgardenplants.com

Desert Moon Nursery
PO Box 600
Veguita, NM 87062

For hardy cacti seed, write to:
New Mexico Cactus Research
PO Box 787
Belen, NM 87002



Above:
Opuntia fragilis

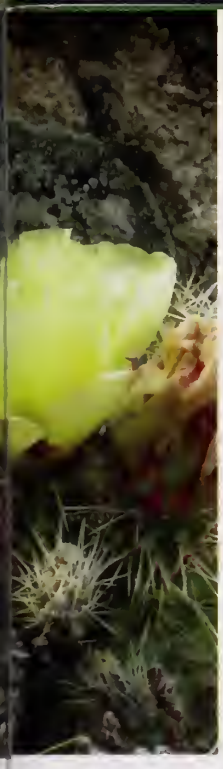
Below:
Echinocereus reichenbachil

er grass (*Stipa tenuissima*). Plants range from 1 to 3 feet high but often remain shorter in Zone 6.

The nearly spineless beavertail prickly pear (*Opuntia basilaris*) has tidy upright blue-green pads that reliably bear gorgeous magenta flowers. One caveat: southern selections of *Opuntia basilaris* are less hardy, so northern stock is a must. My Zone 4 plants have survived without a hitch.

The stone-dwelling brittle prickly pear (*Opuntia fragilis*) only grows to 4 inches but spreads to 2 feet. Many small yellow flowers emerge from its fragile ovoid pads, which resist the cold remarkably well. Populations have been reported as far north as northern British Columbia. Imagine, a cactus growing





so near the Arctic Circle! The cultivar 'Bronze Beauty' has burnished red highlights in winter and pairs well with the apricot *Delosperma* 'Kelaidis' (ice plant) and tubular *Sempervivum* 'Oddity' (a hens 'n' chicks cultivar).

BARREL, PINCUSHION, AND BALL CACTI

Most cacti grow in one of three common forms: round, low-growing barrel; pincushion; or ball shaped. Some hardy western and midwestern natives fall into these categories.

Sneed's pincushion cactus (*Escobaria sneedii* var. *leei*) is a New Mexican alpine that's perfect for mini desert container plantings. Apricot pink flowers emerge from its small white mounds of 2 to 8 inches. Mine look smart in a raised trough with two other compact hardy western species, the white-flowering Simpson's hedgehog cactus (*Pediocactus simpsonii*) and the small barrel cactus pink spinystar (*Escobaria vivipara*).

Missouri foxtail cactus (*Escobaria missouriensis*) grows in pincushion mounds that reach 12 inches and bear non-threatening, spider-like needles and subtle bronzy-gold flowers. This hardy plant inhabits much of the Midwest and central United States, which ensures its dependability in a hot well-drained Pennsylvania garden.

Hedgehog cacti have two genera, *Pediocactus* and *Echinocereus*. These have clumped barrel-shaped stems with colorful flowers and edible round pink, red, or brown fruits. Two vigorous southwestern species are the large red-flowering scarlet hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus coccineus*) and the pink lace hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus reichenbachii*). *Echinocereus coccineus* can reach 1 to 3 feet while *E. reichenbachii* reaches one 1 foot. Both have vertical ridges of white spines and dense growth habits. My three-year-old *Echinocereus coccineus* has reached 6 inches and flourishes alongside golden *Sedum* 'Angelina' and finely textured *Sedum sexangulare*.

CACTUS CULTURE

Hardy cacti need the perfect planting ground. Poor drainage, organically rich or clay soils, and low light are major cultural enemies! Any one of these can annihilate a perfectly healthy cactus in no time.

To attain perfect drainage, plant them in raised beds, reduce the soil content, and add fast-draining, nutrient-free amendments like chicken grit, sand, or pebbles. Organic mulches must be avoided unless you want a rot-fest. Small stones are a kinder form of weed barrier and lend a desert look. Cacti also prefer a hot, south-facing exposure. Novice cactus gardeners may want to start with trough plantings for better control of cultural conditions.

When working around cacti, a gentle hand will protect you and your plants. Spines are designed for defense, and the pads break off easily. Rose gloves will protect your hands and upper arms. When transplanting, protect the pads and spines by gently holding the plants in layers of bubble wrap.

So, whether summer chooses to bring fair or chokingly dry weather, it can't hurt to stand prepared with a few prickly beauties. You'll be glad to have the chance to fight back with these water-wise weapons of green.



Above: **Trough of *Opuntia* and Barrel Cactus**

Zones and bloom times for cacti mentioned in this article:

Echinocereus coccineus
Zones 5-8, June-July

Echinocereus reichenbachii
Zones 5-8, June-July

Escobaria missouriensis
Zones 4-8, May-June

Escobaria sneedii var. *leei*
Zones 5-9, May-June

Escobaria vivipara
Zones 4-8, June-July

Opuntia basilaris
Zones 6-10, June

Opuntia fragilis
Zones 2-8, June

Opuntia humifusa
Zones 4-9, June-July

Opuntia macrorhiza
Zones 3-9, June-July

Opuntia phaeacantha
Zones 6-10, June

Pediocactus simpsonii
Zones 3-8, May-June



Right: **Jim Doyle**
Below
left to right:
Black pine

Bird's nest spruce

Scotch pine

THE QUIET

Bonsai is a little bit art, a little bit horticulture, and a lot of patient nurturing. But one thing it's not is easy. Even Jim Doyle, the renowned bonsai master and teacher from Harrisburg, Pa., will admit to that. He's been crafting miniaturized trees in the smallest of pots for more than 30 years and confesses to "killing a lot of trees learning the art." He tells students, wryly, "The only reason I have a right to teach you is because I've killed more plants than you have. But through death, there's knowledge."

Doyle has become one of America's best-known bonsai experts, lecturing at conferences and botanical gardens from New York to Florida to Vancouver and most stops in





A Visit with Jim Doyle of Nature's Way Nursery

Story & Photography by George Weigel

BONSAI MASTER

between. He's co-chaired the American Bonsai Society's national symposium, belongs to practically every bonsai organization known to modern man, and last year won Best of Show honors at the prestigious Mid-American Bonsai Exhibit in Chicago. His award-winning bonsai was a century-old, 30-inch-tall arborvitae that is somehow surviving in only a 4-inch-deep pot.

These days Doyle is also developing an international reputation. The American Bonsai Society recently referred to Doyle and Germany's Walter Pall as "the dynamic duo of bonsai." Yet few outside of bonsai circles know this soft-spoken owner of Nature's Way Nursery and Bonsai Studio, a small garden center, land-









Bonsai

Left top: **Korean hornbeam**
Left bottom: **Arborvitae**
Right top: **Hinoki cypress**
Right bottom: **Japanese maple**

scape business, and bonsai shop nestled in a bamboo-shielded nook of suburban Harrisburg.

"Jim's a very mild guy," says Chase Rosade, himself a nationally acclaimed bonsai practitioner from Bucks County. "Sometimes the best-kept secrets are the ones in your own back yard." Rosade is the one who inadvertently pushed Doyle's then-dormant bonsai button when Doyle was about to earn a horticulture degree from Delaware Valley College in 1973. "I saw Chase working on a 70-year-old Japanese maple," Doyle recalls. "That was my first serious introduction to bonsai. He really inspired me."

Doyle hadn't even originally planned to get into horticulture when he went to Del Valley. He was hoping to become a veterinarian and was more interested in wrestling and tap and jazz dance than anything related to plants. Then one summer he got a job digging trees at Bucks County Nursery and suddenly realized he really liked working outdoors. He switched out of biology and fell in love with what he calls the "mystery and marvels of plants." He recalls, "I found it amazing that you could take two parts of plants and put them together or start a seed and get a plant. It was almost like a miracle."

After graduation, he and a friend bought a rickety old Ford Econoline pickup truck and started their own landscaping business on a rented piece of ground in Dauphin County. They called it Nature's Way Nursery because of Doyle's predilection for organic gardening.

At first, it was a conventional business with conventional plants. It grew through the 1970s and early 1980s into a 20-employee business with a small retail nursery specializing in dwarf conifers and Japanese maples. During those years, Doyle puttered around more and more with bon-





A Few Bonsai Tips from Nature's Way Owner Jim Doyle:

Start inexpensively. Learn by using distressed plants from end-of-season sales or by digging up a struggling landscape plant or two.

Go to a bonsai demonstration, join a bonsai club, or take a class. "I'd do all of those things before picking up a bonsai book," Doyle says. "There must be 300 books on bonsai out there, and about 250 of them aren't worth reading because they've got the wrong information."

Study how trees grow in nature. Also look at art. A good bonsai specimen will draw on both of these sources.

Proper watering is critical. Regular watering is needed because such little soil is used, but good drainage also is critical so the roots don't rot.

Most bonsai plants will need at least some winter protection. Keep in mind that potted bonsai plants are less cold-hardy because the roots have less protection and far less soil insulation than in-ground plants.

Good outdoor bonsai species for beginners: junipers (*Juniperus*), hornbeams (*Carpinus*), and azaleas.

Good indoor bonsai species for beginners: figs (*Ficus*), *Schefflera* and *Podocarpus*.

Doyle's five favorite bonsai species (besides the one he's working on at the moment): pines (*Pinus*), hornbeams (*Carpinus*), Japanese maples (*Acer palmatum*), larch (*Larix*) and the tropical *Jaboticaba*.

sai. He took classes, went to symposiums, and killed a lot of would-be bonsai trees. "To this day, I still have my first bonsai," Doyle says. "It's dead, but I still have it."

Though Doyle has gotten a lot better at his craft over the years, he says that bonsai never really gets easy. "It's a combination of art, science, and horticulture," he says. "Some people are very good at keeping plants alive. Some are better at styling trees. In rare cases, they're good at both."

One of the biggest challenges Americans have with bonsai, though, is the patience it takes to grow and craft a really superb specimen. "A lot of people are in a hurry," says Doyle. "This is living art. If you want instant gratification, it is not the art for you. A bonsai is never finished—that is, until the plant is dead. I always tell people a greatly styled dead tree is better than a poorly styled live tree."

Doyle says the biggest compliment for him is when someone looks at one of his miniaturized creations and says, "This reminds me of a romantic spot and the tree I used to sit under," or "This reminds me of the big oak tree that used to be in my grandfather's back yard." It's hard enough to evoke those kinds of feelings with paint and brushes but even harder when your materials are wire, some snippers, a skinny pot of gravelly soil, and a gnarly plant that keeps wanting to grow where you don't want it to.

Doyle's "a-ha" moment came when Japanese bonsai master Yuji Yoshimura one day told him, "Jim, you keep getting lost in the horticulture end of it. You're not putting art into it." From then on, Doyle started looking at art books, paying attention to clouds, and looking at nature through a camera lens without actually taking pictures.

It helped his work immeasurably. Little by little, bonsai grew from a hobby to the main focus of his business. He began traveling to China and Japan, converted a garage into a bonsai studio in 1989, and began specializing in Asian-influenced landscape designs. Soon, his phone was ringing and Doyle found himself speaking at big-name garden venues all over.

Now, after more than 30 years of snipping and observing, he's become that rarest of individuals who can grow bonsai, style bonsai, *and* teach others how to do it. All without killing nearly so many trees as he once did.

George Weigel is a Pennsylvania Certified Horticulturist and garden writer for the *Patriot-News* in Harrisburg. Nature's Way Nursery and Bonsai Studio is located at 1451 Pleasant Hill Road, Harrisburg, near the village of Linglestown. Contact them at 717-545-4555 or visit *www.natureswaybonsai.com*.

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STALWART SEDUMS

Story by Eric Hsu
Photos by Rhoda Maurer

Few perennials are as indispensable as sedums in the border or rock garden. Some of them offer a striking contrast between flower and seed as their flowers turn russet and their stems pare to skeletal remains. The sight of sedums coated with frost on a winter morning dispels the notion that death ends their starring roles. Others act as groundcovers and possess resilient evergreen foliage that repels heat, humidity, and cold. Their succulence is a trait shared by other genera, such as *Kalanchoe* and *Sempervivum*, in the CRASSULACEAE family.

BORDER SEDUMS

Most gardeners are familiar with *Sedum spectabile* and its hybrid 'Herbstrfreude' (syn. 'Autumn Joy'). 'Brilliant', 'Carol', and 'Neon', all having bright pink flowers and thick green leaves, are other outstanding selections of *S. spectabile*. 'Herbstrfreude' still remains the yardstick by which other cultivars are judged, but plants, having been seed-propagated, are highly variable in cultivation. Some flower earlier or later than others and grow to different sizes, although cultural conditions may be a culprit. 'Autumn Fire' is the answer to the splayed growth of 'Herbstrfreude'. Its growth is sturdy, tight, and better developed.

S. spectabile and *S. telephium* subsp. *maximum* are the main progenitors of colorful cultivars. One of the best hybrid seedlings is 'Matrona', which arose at Ewald Hugin's nursery in Germany. Its name aptly alludes to a woman of well-rounded form, and this plant is robust by all standards. The 24-inch succulent stems are thick, strong, and upright; the burgundy-suffused, round leaves are large; and the flat pink flowers are borne in large heads. Similar is 'Joyce Henderson', differing only in its looser habit. 'Matrona' has yielded a sport, 'Black Jack'. This promising introduction with slate blue foliage was recently discovered in the production fields of the wholesale firm Walters Gardens in Michigan. Avoid 'Mohrchen', which fares better in cooler summers. Here in the Delaware Valley it is ungainly and prone to aphids and rust. 'Garnet Brocade', a new introduction with bronze-red stems and matching flowers, promises to be a better substitute for 'Mohrchen'.

Another dark-foliaged cultivar is 'Purple Emperor', discovered by Graham Gough of Marchants Plants, Sussex, England, and introduced through Washfield Nursery in Kent. Only 18 inches high, it is shorter than 'Matrona', and the wide, matt leaves turn a darker purple when the red-violet flowers open. From my experience, its coloring is lighter in rich, clay soils, and the growth habit is floppy, although a midsummer shearing will remedy it. Several reports have noted its tendency to rot away, yet good drainage and full sun will ensure better over-wintering success. 'Purple Emperor' won plaudits in the nursery trade for its colorful foliage, but unscrupulous growers propagated seed-raised progeny under its name and undermined the original plant's merits.

'Gooseberry Fool' originated as a self-sown seedling in the late Graham Stuart Thomas' garden. It should be grown more widely, not only for its white-greenish coloration, but also for its upright, sturdy stems flushed with purple and its cupped, fleshy leaves.

Introduced from Japan by Barry Yinger, 'Frosty Morn' sports white-margined leaves mottled in green and gray. It is undeniably handsome, but it has a few faults. Plants emerge in spring full and compact but soon sprawl in the center, and any green-reverting shoots, if left unpruned, can crowd out the variegated ones. A better alternative may be *S. spectabile* 'Pink Chablis', which has the same variegated effect and pink flowers. *S. erythrostictum* 'Mediovariegatum' is the yel-

Left: **'Matrona'**



Right: **'Sieboldii'**

Below: **Sedum at Wisley in the UK**



low counterpart with golden blotches in the leaf centers. Green shoots are a minor nuisance in this cultivar.

Breeding at Terra Nova Nurseries in Oregon has produced shorter plants with colorful foliage and persistent flowers and without the tendency to flop over. 'Cloud Walker' has tiered clusters of mauve flowers held loosely, 'Mr. Goodyear' is similar with tighter clusters, and 'Hot Stuff' is a Lilliputian version of 'Brilliant.' These cultivars make excellent front-of-the-border plants.

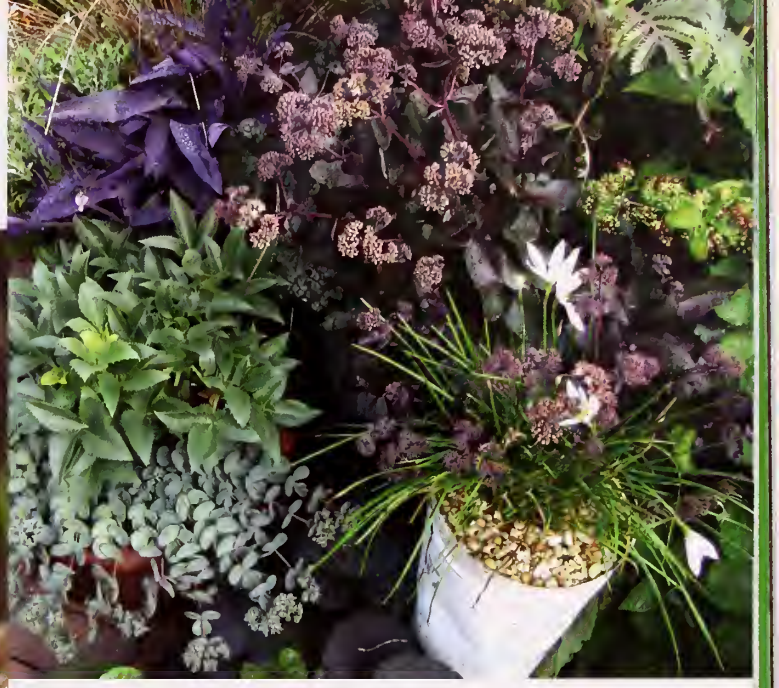
PROSTRATE SEDUMS

Sedum sieboldii is a charming species bearing blue-gray succulent leaves held nearly horizontal. A snazzy variegated cultivar, 'Mediovariegatum', steals the show with creamy yellow margins. 'Bertram Anderson', 'Ruby Cloud', 'Sunset Cloud', and 'Vera Jameson' are showier versions of *S. sieboldii* with smoky blue foliage and rosy red flowers. The mound-like arching nature of these sedums suggests a planting site where they can recline over a stone wall or a raised bed.

GROUNDCOVER SEDUMS

Evergreen sedums make great groundcovers. *S. kamtschaticum*, *S. spathulifolium*, and *S. spurium* are classic choices for tough sites since they form weed-suppressing mats. Not surprisingly, a few have been employed for green roofs where they bravely take heat and drought in stride. A newcomer hailing from Croatia, *Sedum rupestre* 'Angelina' (3 to 5 inches) has brilliant, chartreuse, needlelike leaves with tips that turn orange in cooler temperatures; its yellow flowers are somewhat superfluous.





CULTIVATION AND GARDEN USE

Sedums do best in well-drained soils under sunny conditions. The leaner the soil, the better. A mild infestation of aphids can occur in early summer, but these can be dispatched with a strong spray of water from a hose or a mild dose of insecticidal soap. Autumn-flowering plants like asters, chrysanthemums, and grasses make ideal companions. A successful autumn mélange in my former garden was *Sedum* 'Matrona,' *Aster oblongifolius* 'Raydon's Favorite', *Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks', and *Panicum virgatum* 'Heavy Metal'.

Sedums also work exceedingly well in containers. I've used 'Purple Emperor' with *Aloe* 'Blue Elf', *Heuchera* 'Velvet Night', and *Melianthus major* 'Purple Haze', all of which echoed each other in hue. In another container, *Sedum sieboldii* served as a foil to *Helleborus* × *sternii*. At the Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College, a mixed planting incorporates 'Matrona' with *Hydrangea quercifolia*, *Fothergilla major*, *Cornus* 'Silver and Gold', *Cotinus coggyria* 'Royal Purple', and *Penstemon digitalis* 'Husker Red'. You can anticipate butterflies and bees feasting on the flowers and you'll see birds perched on the seed heads.

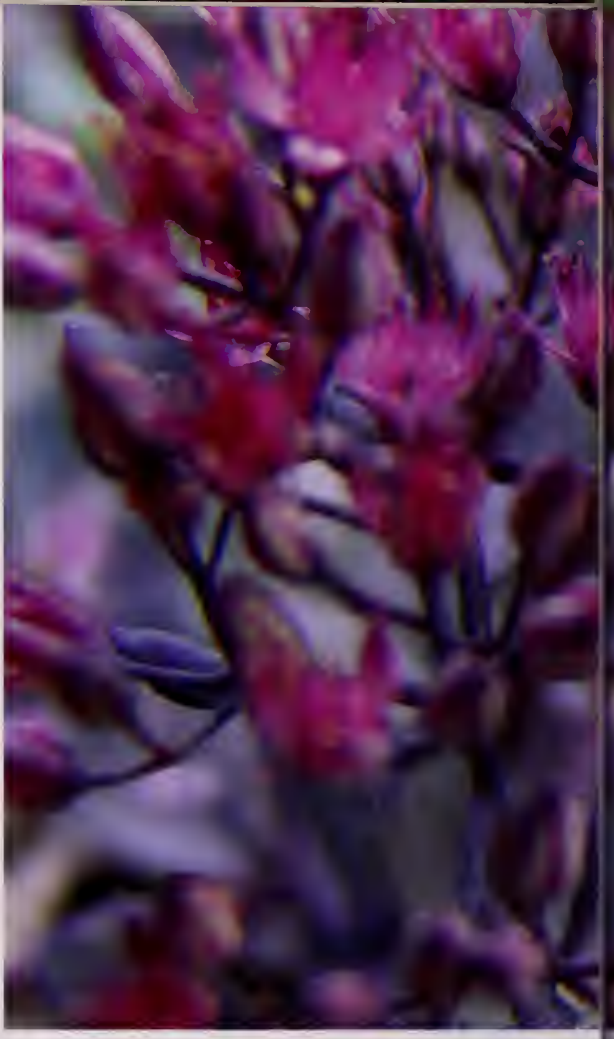
Above: **'Purple Emperor'**

Left: **'Neon'**

PROPAGATING SEDUMS

Sedums are easily propagated by seed (sow in fall or early spring) or cuttings. Division can produce several plants, but a faster way to increase border sedums is to harvest several stems during summer. Strip the stems free of leaves (leave the petioles if you like), bunch them together, and hang them upside down in a cool, dark place.

Within several weeks, small plantlets should appear within the leaf axils. When the plantlets have reached 1 inch, gently break them off and plant them in a free-draining mixture containing perlite and potting medium. Keep them well watered in a sunny site until they are large enough to plant outside. You can grow them like houseplants during the winter and plant them outdoors in late spring. Any surplus plants can be given to admiring visitors, assuring your sedums of their durability in the garden for years to come.



Right: '**Bertram Anderson**'

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By Rhoda Maurer

MAINTENANCE & GROOMING

Now that you've designed and planted show-stopping containers for your garden, you'll need to establish a maintenance routine to keep them looking their best. Proper watering, fertilizing, and grooming habits are essential if you want your containers to look as good as those pictured in gardening magazines.

At the Scott Arboretum, we are frequently asked how often and how much we water our containers. While there is no recipe that works for all situations, a good rule of thumb is to water only after the soil has dried out but before plants have wilted. Most importantly, water must be applied thoroughly and allowed to drain freely through the bottom of the pot before moving on to your next container; do not allow water to stand in saucers. During the height of the season, you might water large containers 3 to 4 times per week and smaller pots daily.

Plants confined to the microcosm of a container need a steady supply of nutrients. If you plant your containers early in the season, but after the likelihood of a late frost has passed (mid-May for the Delaware Valley), you can begin fertilizing with a controlled-release, pelletized fertilizer like Osmocote (there are many brands and generics available). You can apply up to double the rates specified for annuals without worry of fertilizer burn. This application will free up some of your precious time for other springtime tasks. However, you should not use controlled-release fertilizers after temperatures climb into the 80°F range, as the method of release is dependent upon the thickness of the semi-permeable membrane, temperature, and moisture. In the heat of our summer, fertilizer from controlled-release pellets is often rapidly dumped, sometimes burning roots or crusting pots with excessive salts.

Instead, you should apply a water-soluble fertilizer mixed with water beginning in early to mid June and continuing weekly through fall. A fertilizer composition of 20-20-20 or 15-30-15 (percentage of nitrogen, phosphate, and potash) with micronutrients is ideal; anything with too high a nitrogen content compared with phosphate may inhibit flowering. If you have a fertilizer injector system, 200ppm is a good starting ratio; that can increase to 300ppm during the height of the growing season.

As plants grow and their leaves and blossoms mature, wither, and die, they can begin to look unkempt. That's where the next step, grooming, comes in, and it's often the most overlooked. Removing spent foliage keeps your plants looking fresh, and deadheading flowers encourages new buds, but be selective and leave some flowers to develop into showy seed heads for late-season interest. For example, deadheading the entire flower spike to the first full-sized leaf on a canna will encourage new stalks. But you may prefer to keep the canna fruit later in the season by simply removing the spent petals as they wither. Removing verbena, petunia, begonia, and fuchsia flowers will encourage further flowering.

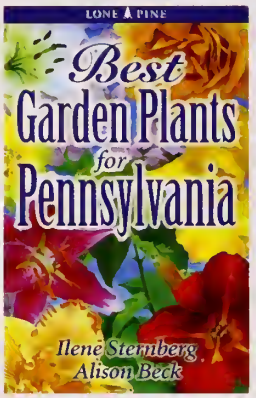
Foliage pinching is perhaps the most difficult task to master and requires close attention to the way plants grow. In general, pinching back encourages branched growth, giving you dense, overflowing containers by the end of the growing season. If filler plants like coleus, *tradescantia*, sweet potato vine, and *alternanthera* are not pinched back, they become very leggy. You should always pinch plants back to a node just above a dormant bud; do not leave stubs or you may not get the desired result. Feeding your plants while at the same time pinching off new growth may seem counter-intuitive, but it's the best way to keep containers looking full and bountiful.

So set up a regular schedule of watering, fertilizing, and grooming. It may seem like a lot of effort, but if you follow this regimen, you'll be rewarded with a container garden that's downright photogenic.

Rhoda Maurer is the plant records supervisor at the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College. She is also the head gardener for a private estate in New Jersey and loves to write, photograph and lecture. You can visit the Scott Arboretum's website at *www.scottarboretum.org*.

Photo by Rhoda Maurer



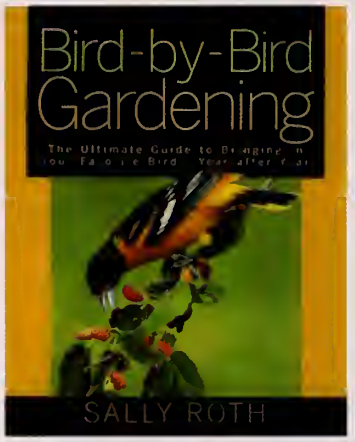


Best Garden Plants for Pennsylvania

by Ilene Sternberg and Alison Beck

(176 pp., $16.95)

With its biting winters and scorching summers, Pennsylvania's roller-coaster weather can make garden planning a chore. Fortunately, Ilene Sternberg (a frequent *Green Scene* contributor) and Alison Beck are all too familiar with the Keystone State's tricky conditions and have written *Best Garden Plants for Pennsylvania* to help. Divided into eight categories, including annuals, vines, and bulbs, the guide explains the pros and cons of 160 species. Large, full-color photos help make it easy to plan the perfect garden.

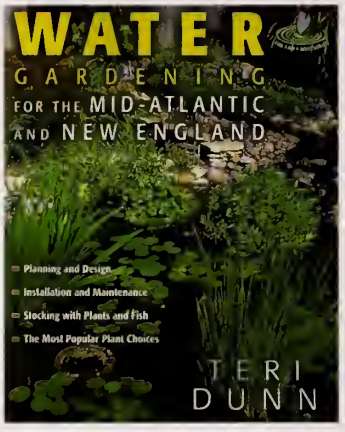


Bird-by-Bird Gardening

by Sally Roth

(377 pp., $29.95)

Bird's the word in Sally Roth's latest book, a follow-up to the popular *The Backyard Birdfeeder's Bible.* Whether you're wowed by warblers or fascinated by finches, *Bird-by-Bird Gardening* shares clever methods of luring your favorite species to your property. Nineteen garden designs, each with its own water projects, plant recommendations, and feeder recipes, help take the guesswork out of attracting your feathered friends. If you think you know all there is to know about birds and gardens, Roth's book will have you eating crow.



Water Gardening for the Mid-Atlantic and New England

by Teri Dunn

(176 pp., $18.99)

Water fixtures can dramatically change the mood of any garden. A bubbling fountain exudes an air of luxury, a Koi pond provides serenity, and a rustic container display has undeniable old-world charm. Teri Dunn's new guide walks readers through the planning, installation, and maintenance stages of water gardening, sprinkling helpful "can't miss tips" along the way. Also useful is the plant directory, a detailed compilation of water-loving lilies, lotuses, and accessorizing plants.



Beautiful Madness

by James Dodson

(289 pp., $24.95)

Can gardening be dangerous? The answer is yes if you're James Dodson. In *Beautiful Madness: One Man's Journey through Other People's Gardens,* the intrepid author finds himself in a number of prickly situations as he explores green spaces around the country and beyond. Whether it's sneaking into a hosta convention or trekking about Africa with "plant hunters," adventure follows Dodson at every step. Of course, a year of garden gallivanting wouldn't be complete without a visit to the Philadelphia Flower Show, which is discussed at length in this titillating travelogue.

R is for Rose—Reflections from a Passionate Rose Lover

by Carolyn Parker

(208 pp., $35.00)

Valentine's Day may be long past, but roses make the perfect gift all year long. Learn more about this favorite flower in *R is for Rose—Reflections from a Passionate Rose Lover.* Journey with photographer, author, and gardener Carolyn Parker from A (Alba, Rosa Rugosa) to Z (Zéphirine Drouhin) as she details 26 of her favorite species. An added bonus is the book's lush and vibrant photography. *R is for Rose* is a radiant read.

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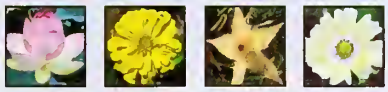
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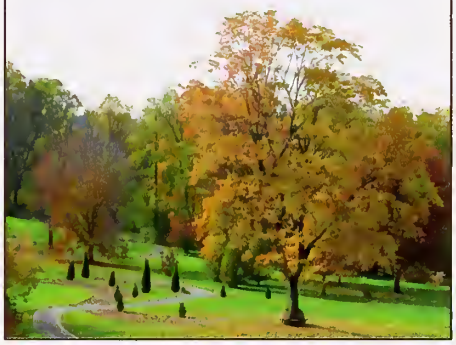
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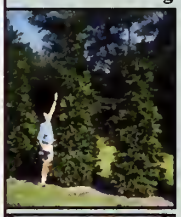
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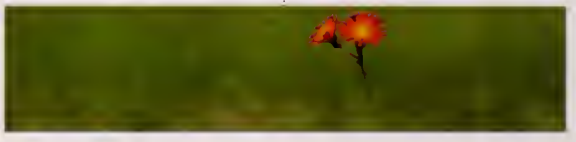
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AN OASIS OF PEACE AND BEAUTY

How Heather Ascher Helps Keep Center City Growing

By Daniel Moise

In 1928, the publication *Building Developer* referred to the English Village, a block of homes near Philadelphia's Rittenhouse Square, as "an oasis of peace and beauty in the midst of busy business blocks." Now, 78 years later, the statement still holds true, and it's largely due to Heather Ascher.

Thanks to Heather's ability to organize and inspire her neighbors, the 20 stately homes that surround the old-fashioned 2100 block of St. James Place are tastefully adorned with lush gardens. Amidst the gardens, one can see a pair of Japanese maples that were planted in the late 1940s, along with boxwoods that were bought then for 15 cents apiece! "Front-yard gardens were part of the architect's original design, so we wanted to preserve that. Being a part of PHS's City Gardens Contest has taken our commitment to a whole new level," Heather says.



Relative newcomers to the annual competition, the English Village gardeners have consistently exceeded expectations. Although they won first place in 2004, for Heather, the sweetest victory was their first foray into the event three years prior.

"In 2001 we came in second, and we were *shocked*. As individuals we had very little experience, so I suppose our award was based on combined effort," Heather says. "That's what the contest is all about: generating a sense of community. We're a diversified group with at least one thing in common—the love of green."

The English Village has attracted the attention of City Councilman Darrell Clarke, who Heather sagaciously invited to a garden party in 2001. "Because his office provides PHS's Philadelphia Green program with funding, I thought he should see how the City Gardens Contest helped shape up our block. I hoped he'd remember it when drafting the budget," she says. Councilman Clarke graciously accepted the invitation and was thoroughly impressed by the botanical beauty and neighborhood pride.

Such savvy earned Heather the opportunity to join the board of directors of the Center City Residents' Association (CCRA), a well-established civic organization dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of life in downtown Philadelphia. She has served on the CCRA board since 2004.

Heather is also a member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board. "I was concerned about the diminishing amounts of green space in Center City," she says. "Philadelphia Green empowers people to make our city a more attractive, safe, and livable place through horticulture, and I wanted to help."



Interestingly, the invitation to join the Advisory Board arose shortly after the death of Heather's father, Edward Turner, a lifelong florist. Part of her motivation to accept the position was to commemorate his love of nature. Heather's mother, Ruth, is also an avid gardener with a verdant property in Delaware County. Heather says, "Try as I may, my thumb will never be as green as those of my parents."

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NEW COLUMN!
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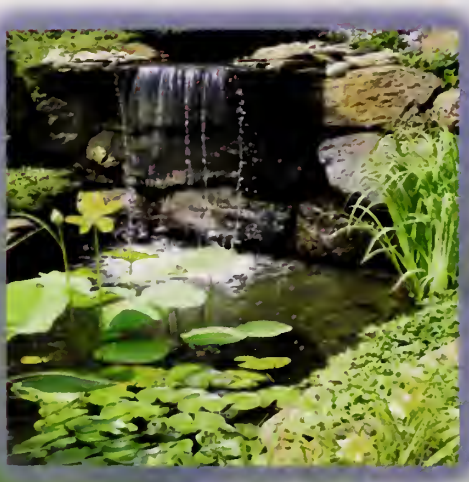
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The ***Vision*** of Cathedral Village continues. It is an on-going process that accommodates changes in cultural trends and in residents' lifestyles.

We invite you to visit, question, and compare!
Come in Monday through Friday between 9 and 4.
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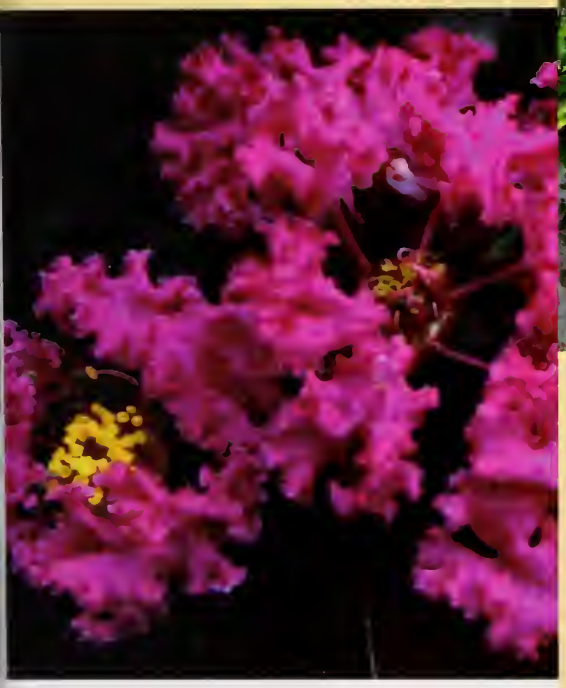
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Last autumn Patricia Taylor witnessed the planting of 70,000 bulbs in lower Manhattan. Ranging from the standard tulip to some uncommon corydalis, more than 60 species were part of the captivating downtown design. Stop by the next time you're in the Big Apple, or allow Patricia's recommendations to bring the beauty to your own backyard.

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The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Main cover photo by Margaret Funderburg

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GREEN scene

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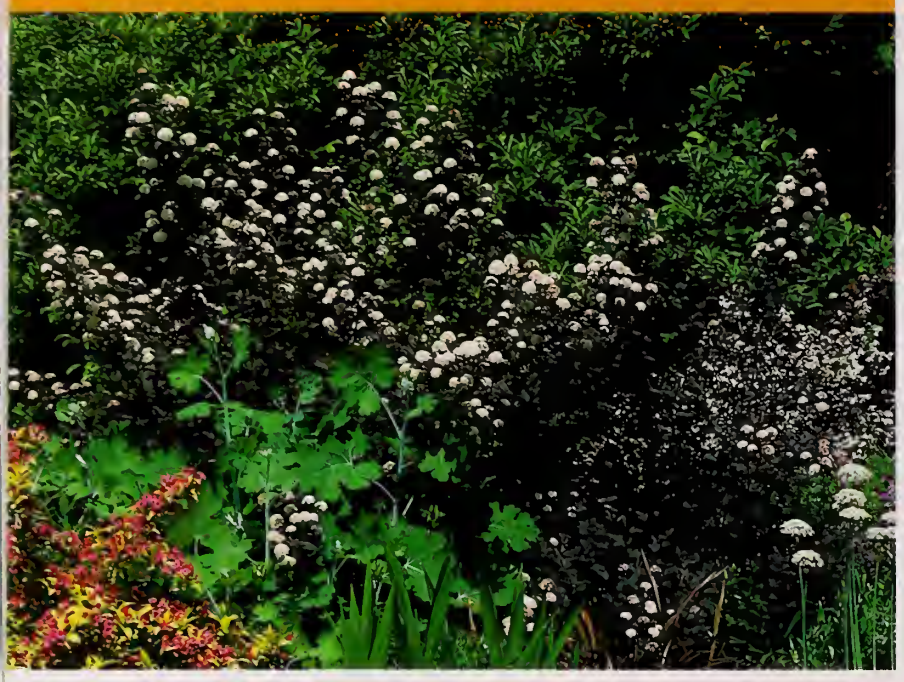
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SCREEN TEST

Above: **'Diablo' ninebark**
Right: **Leyland cypress**

Call me odd, but I really enjoy shopping for trees and shrubs, probably more than searching for flowering herbaceous plants. Why? In a word, *permanence.* Buying a woody plant is a major decision that will have an impact on the landscape for years, if not decades, to come. You could argue that it's one of the most important decisions a gardener will ever make. And somehow, that appeals to me.

Consider the tree. Purchasing a tree on a whim and quickly plunking it in the ground is often a mistake, generally because trees grow much larger than one thinks they will. I kept this in mind recently as I began looking for trees and shrubs to screen out the house of a close neighbor. I knew I didn't have room for huge specimens, so I began exploring trees and shrubs with dense foliage that grew 20 to 30 feet tall for part of the screen. There are plenty of great conifers, but they are often slow growers and I'm in a hurry. My thoughts quickly went to the popular arborvitae, 'Green Giant', a fast-growing, dense conifer, but they top out over 50 feet high, which might obstruct a nice view.

So I stopped at Mostardi's Nursery in Newtown Square, PA, and chatted with one of the salespeople there. After a description of my planting needs, he steered me toward a pair of Leyland cypresses. They fit all the criteria for screening out the neighbor's second-floor deck, which required a tree that was quick growing to 20 to 35 feet and had dense foliage and a manageable spread (no more than 20 feet). Though Leylands have their downsides (their shallow roots can sometimes make them susceptible to disease), they nevertheless thrive in this region and are hard to beat for their fast rate of growth. (Other screen plants worth noting—all PHS Gold Medal Plants—are 'Yoshino' Japanese cedar and 'Emerald Sentinel' red cedar juniper.)

But I wasn't finished shopping. There's another stretch along the property line that I wanted to plant, but I didn't want trees so tall that they would obscure another good vista. The obvious solution would be shrubs and, here, I knew exactly what I wanted. A few years ago I bought a PHS Gold Medal plant called eastern ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Diablo') and it turned into a large, beautiful screen shrub. In my full-sun location, it grew to about 8 feet high and wide and produced rich burgundy foliage with white flower clusters in the spring. Without hesitating, I grabbed the five remaining plants at Mostardi's that day and happily drove home with my "instant neighbor screen."



All of this reinforces the idea that shopping for trees and shrubs can involve both fun detective work and the thrill of plant hunting. It's especially satisfying when your research gives you a sense of what the tree or shrub will look like in 10 years. Again, the oft-repeated line "right plant, right place" comes to mind. I know we say that a lot in these pages, but it's the secret of great gardening and successful landscaping. You can see more excellent trees, shrubs and vines on the PHS website, where you'll also find a new online Search function to help you find Gold Medal trees, shrubs and vines quicker than ever.

Pete Brown

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06/07

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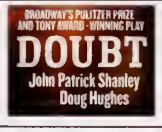

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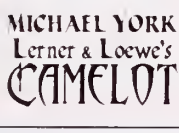

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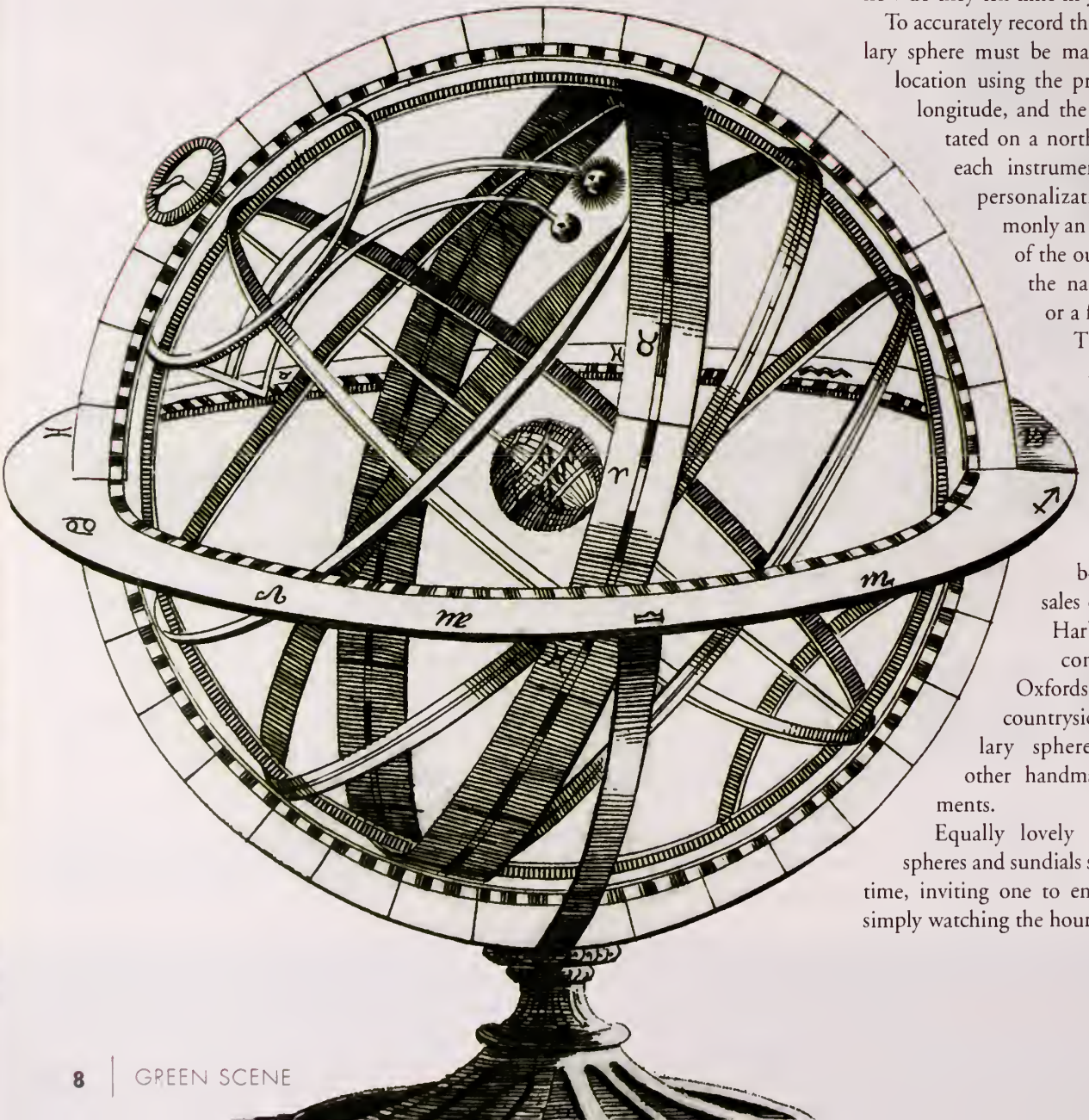
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What is an ARMILLARY SPHERE?



A popular ornament in formal gardens, the armillary sphere is a three-dimensional sundial. The sphere's intersecting rings represent the great circles of the earth, including the polar circles, the equator, and the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. The central rod, or "gnomen," points to the pole star, and as the sun passes through the sky it casts a slowly moving shadow on the equatorial band, which is marked with hour lines. But just how do they tell time in your garden?

To accurately record the time, each armillary sphere must be made for its specific location using the precise latitude and longitude, and the gnomen is orientated on a north-south axis. Thus each instrument lends itself to personalization—most commonly an inscription on one of the outer bands, such as the name of the garden or a favorite quotation. This personal aspect is "rather sort of lovely in a way," Jonathan Langford says with charming British verbosity. Langford is sales director for David Harber Ltd., a small company based in Oxfordshire in the English countryside that sells armillary spheres, sundials and other handmade garden ornaments.

Equally lovely is the way that spheres and sundials seem to slow down time, inviting one to enjoy the luxury of simply watching the hours pass in a garden,



a calming antidote to the frantic pace of 21st-century life. "Armillary spheres first became popular as garden ornaments during the Renaissance," Langford explains. "Because of their open design, they don't dominate the landscape."

David Harber Ltd. makes armillaries in bronze, brass, or stainless steel for clients all over the world. The company also makes horizontal sundials, sculptures, water features, and other outdoor curiosities, often using light. Langford says "henges" (as in Stonehenge) are an especially hot item lately. "All the rock stars want their own henges," he says.

—Jane Carroll

SOURCES

David Harber Ltd.
www.davidharber.com

North American Sundial Society
http://sundials.org

Garden Accents
www.gardenaccents.com

BOOKS

Albert E. Waugh
Sundials: Their Theory and Construction

René R. J. Rohr
Sundials: History, Theory, and Practice

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When Houseplants ATTACK

MY friend Tom Ogren, author of *Allergy-Free Gardening* and *Safe Sex in the Garden*, has a sexual hang-up about plants. Take him to the most glorious, inspiring garden, indoors or out, and he walks around grimfaced, clucking and mumbling about there being too many male plants (i.e.: those evil, pollen-producing culprits of the plant world that create allergens by the score.)

In my living room he scowls at a 7-foot-high *Podocarpus macrophyllus*. "Hmmm...." he mutters. "Not only a male, but you've got a mealybug infestation here," he says, scrutinizing my prize specimen. "Big-time allergy plant," he decrees, as my humiliated *Podo* bows its branches in disgrace.

Ogren has strong advice on allergies and houseplants: "Pollen generators like peace lily (*Spathiphyllum* sp.) should be avoided, unless you clip their blooms before they mature," he warns sensitive folk.

And here's his lowdown on hanging ferns: "When hanging-basket ferns cast off their miniscule spores, they land directly on unsuspecting victims below." Ogren says that, like mold spores, fern spores are not nose-friendly. "Tall tree ferns can shower spores down on people. Furthermore, tree ferns have millions of tiny, reddish-brown, needle-sharp trunk hairs that can cause plenty of nose and throat irritation when inhaled and make you itch if touched. Plant them away from most human traffic," he advises.

Some ferns produce more spores than others. "Some may be interspecific and others intergeneric hybrids; the latter probably don't even make spores, and must be propagated by division. And many fern species produce separate sterile and fertile fronds. One could always look at the fronds closely now and then and remove most of the fertile ones, although this seems a bit time-consuming. I like ferns best out in the garden in the shade," Ogren says.

Even though a famous NASA study a decade or so ago proved houseplants clean the air by removing VOCs (volatile organic compounds), they also produce VOCs of their own. "All *Ficus* species release harmful VOCs into the air and have long been known to trigger indoor allergies, including a skin rash," says Ogren. "Anyone with rubber allergies ought to have as little direct skin contact as possible with all euphorbias, including poinsettias. No one should ever make



Outmaneuvering Mold

- Keep soil on the dry side. Water with care and only as needed.
- Don't let water accumulate in the plant's pot or the tray beneath.
- Give plants the most light they can tolerate.
- Diligently remove any dead leaves; don't allow dying foliage to accumulate.
- Monitor indoor humidity using a hygrometer to ensure that the general environment is not overly moist.
- Be vigilant for mold, fungus, and insect pests.

cuttings of any euphorbia in the house. Some give off carcinogenic VOCs when cut."

If plants are grown well, getting great care and thriving, most may indeed improve indoor air quality. But if they're dusty, too wet, dry, or cold, never fertilized, not getting enough light, etc., they often get mealybugs, scale, aphids, whiteflies, or spider mites. These insects can quickly proliferate. They shed old skin and other parts, and this insect dander is extremely allergenic. Insects also produce large amounts of feces, called "honeydew," and mold quickly grows on this rich organic material. The highly allergenic mold spores become airborne inside the house." The take-home lesson: keep houseplants healthy, check for bugs now and then, and if they get ragged, put them outside or toss 'em.

—Ilene Sternberg

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—Valerie Smith, Wallingford, PA

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FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS from the PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW


Photo by Amy Sutryn

Class: Medium Niche

Title Theme: Rare Find

Arrangers: Ann Mastrangelo & Kathy Holmes, Huntingdon Valley Garden Club

Plants: Banana flower, Baby bananas, croton leaves

Ribbon: Blue

Judges' Comments: "Truly, a rare find!"

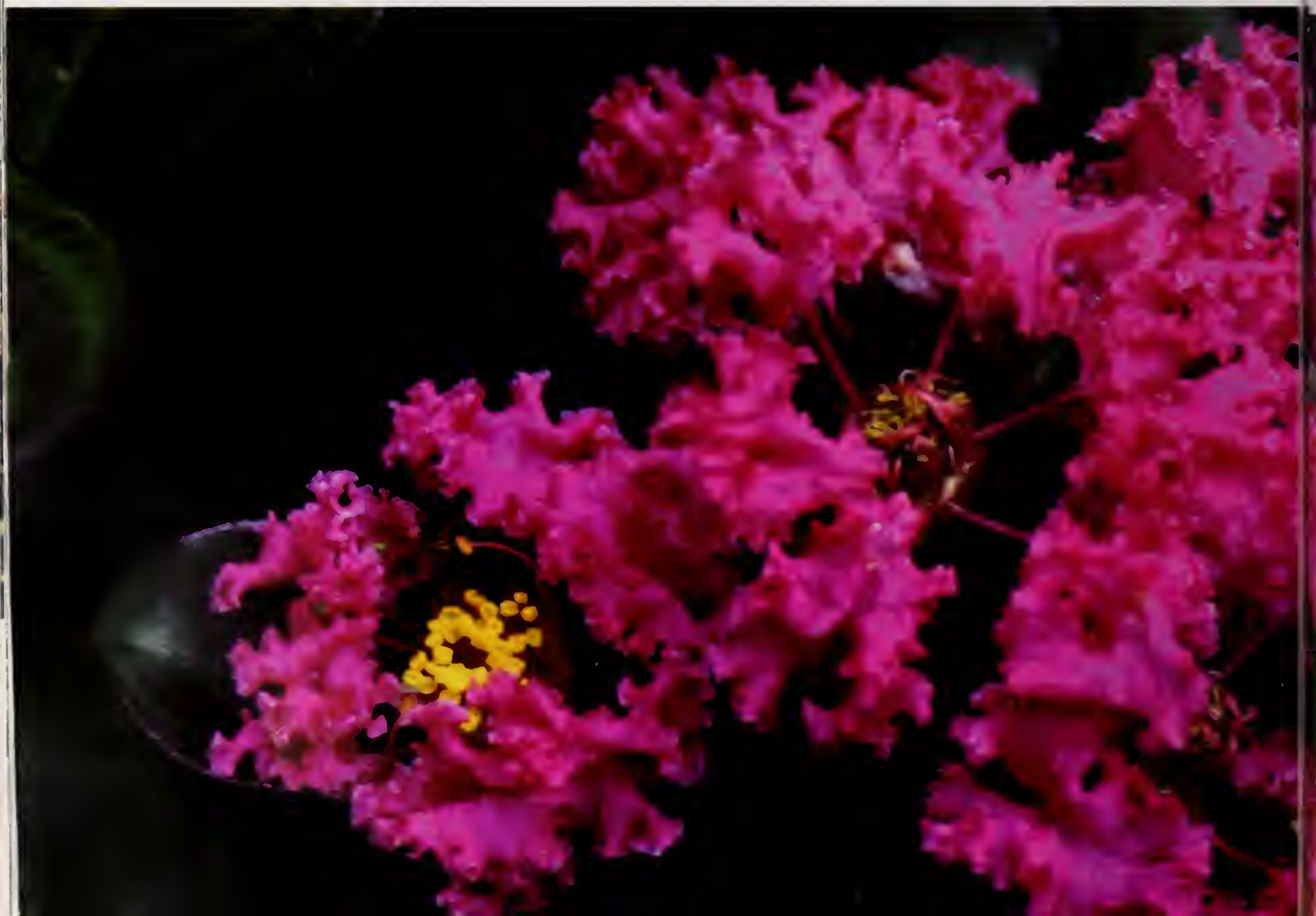
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The WINNER'S



The results are in, the votes have been tallied, and the decisions are final: we now have three new winners of Gold Medal Plant Awards. This PHS program has long recognized trees, shrubs, and woody vines of outstanding merit and teaches home gardeners about superior woody plants for their properties.

Our trio of 2007 Gold Medal winners are all excellent woody plants for the home landscape. They're rugged, too. With stunning looks and impressive performance and durability, these Gold Medal winners have it all.



CIRCLE



THE 2007 PHS GOLD MEDAL PLANT AWARDS

Story by
Joe Ziccardi, PCH

CRAPE MYRTLE Pink Velour

It's hard to believe, but a crape myrtle—popular in the South, but considered unreliably hardy up here—has finally earned a Gold Medal Award. The winner's name is *Lagerstroemia indica* 'Whit III', but you will find it under its trade name, Pink Velour. Hardy in Zones 6 to 9, this small tree was chosen for its cold tolerance and its amazing resistance to powdery mildew.

The next time you visit your local nursery, take a look down the row of potted crape myrtles. If Pink Velour is in stock, you will be drawn to it like a cat to anchovies, thanks to its dramatic colors. The shrub parades flashy, magenta-pink flower clusters atop shiny burgundy foliage in mid-summer. With color lacking in the garden at that time of year, especially in the tree and shrub category, Pink Velour's relatively late bloom time and bold hues justify its place in the landscape.

Pink Velour works well as a specimen shrub or near the foundation. Growing to 10 feet high by 6 feet wide, it can be pruned to the desired height in late August or early spring. Site it with some northwest wind protection and 2 to 4 inches of mulch around the base to assure year after year of enjoyment from this drought-tolerant beauty.

With its impressive combination of color and durability, Pink Velour outshines its peers and belongs in gardens in our region.



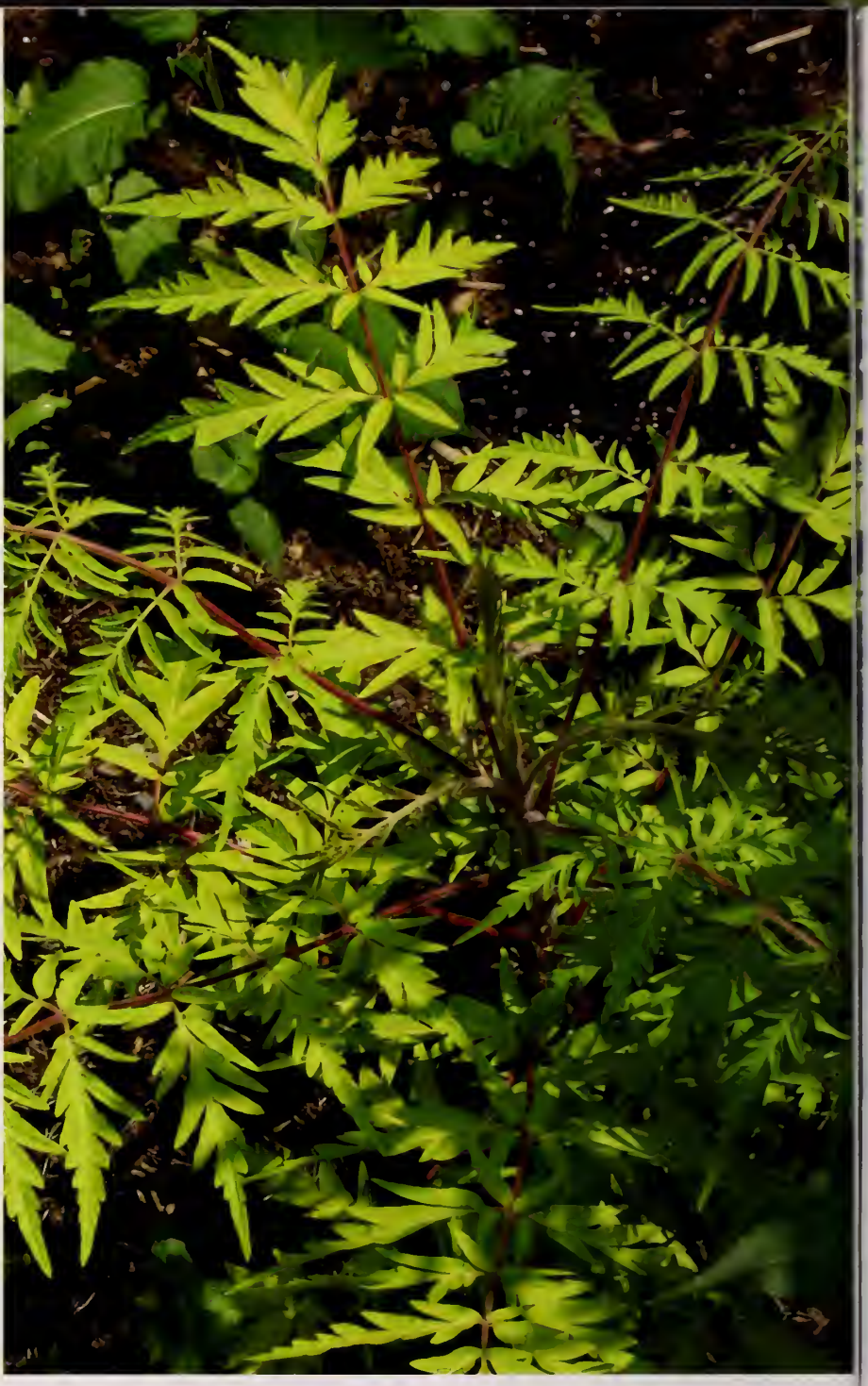
***Lagerstroemia* 'Pink Velour'**



SUMAC Tiger Eyes

Known botanically as *Rhus typhina* 'Bailtiger', Tiger Eyes is a staghorn sumac with purplish-pink stems and exotic cut-leaf foliage. Changing with each season, Tiger Eyes starts out chartreuse in the spring, turns bright yellow in the summer, and eventually blazes scarlet-orange in the fall. It is more compact than the species, reaching a maximum of 6 feet high by 6 feet wide and is not considered invasive.

Prune this small tree to encourage fullness and branching. Tiger Eyes will also tolerate a hard "cut back," if necessary. It prefers well-drained soil, but adapts well to poor soils and urban situations, exhibiting good pollution tolerance. It's great as a foundation or specimen planting, in mass, or in containers. A North American native, this sumac grows in full or part-sun and is hardy in Zones 4 to 8.



PHS is grateful to the many individuals and organizations that help support the Gold Medal program. **The Gold Medal Plant Award Committee**, a volunteer panel of horticulturists, nursery owners, landscape professionals and home growers, meets twice yearly to select new plants. The **Chanticleer Foundation** provides financial support for the program and highlights Gold Medal plants at its Chanticleer Garden in Wayne, PA. Staff and members of the **Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association** help force and donate plants for the Gold Medal exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show each year.



DOGWOOD Venus

Cornus 'Venus' is an improved, hybrid dogwood bred by the renowned plant hybridizer Dr. Elwin Orton. Boasting superb resistance to anthracnose and powdery mildew, along with excellent cold-hardiness (Zones 4 to 8), 'Venus' stands out in the vast crowd of dogwood varieties available today.

Thanks to its full, low-branching habit, the tree veritably explodes with flowers in early spring, sporting 6-inch, pure-white blooms with green centers that cover the tree to the ground. Growing 25 feet high by 25 feet wide in full or part-sun, this Rutgers introduction has clean foliage and grows quickly.

Dr. Orton's desire to create a superior dogwood led him to cross the Pacific dogwood (*C. kousa* × *nuttalli*) with the kousa dogwood (*C. kousa*), thereby producing a flowering tree for the 21st century. 'Venus' is certainly a specimen worthy of a prime spot in your garden.

Opposite page: ***Rhus* 'Tiger Eyes'**

This page: ***Cornus* 'Venus'**



Photos this page courtesy of Rutgers University



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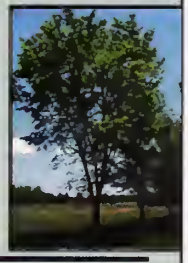


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PLANTING BULBS in the BIG APPLE



Story by Patricia A. Taylor

Last October, I attended a very unusual bulb planting at the Battery Bosque, a recently restored, garden-filled section of Battery Park near the southern Manhattan terminal of the Staten Island Ferry. What made the planting so unusual was not only the presence of highly regarded designers—renowned Dutch garden designer Piet Oudolf and Dutch garden authority Jacqueline van der Kloet—but also the methods of selecting and sorting the bulbs...more than 70,000 of them, donated by the Dutch International Flower Bulb Center (IFBC).

THE PLANT PALETTE

Oudolf had first assigned a color theme for each of the 22 planting beds in the Bosque area and then filled the beds with perennials with appropriately colored flowers or foliage. Next, he and Ms. van der Kloet selected bulbs to match or complement the perennials and extend the flowering season. "We ultimately chose about 60 different kinds of bulbs," Oudolf explained, "and had a good time working out various color schemes for the different planting beds."

In an area featuring the lovely, summer-long, pinkish-violet flowers of the hardy 'Claridge Druce' geranium (*G.* × *oxonianum*), for example, the two specified yellow winter and early spring flowers. They chose winter aconites (*Eranthis hyemalis*), the diminutive 'Peeping Tom' narcissus, and 'Pagoda' dog-tooth violets (*Erythronium* sp.).

The winter aconites will bloom first each year. They will be followed by the bronze, marbled foliage of 'Pagoda' and then the charming 'Peeping Tom' yellow flowers. In April, the buttery yellow blossoms of 'Pagoda' appear, and by May, when the geranium begins its flowering period, above-ground traces of the bulbs have disappeared.

All 70,000 bulbs were selected for their ability to come back year after year and for their propensity to slowly drift and naturalize. They require only adequately drained soil and winter and spring sun (and thus are perfect for placing under deciduous trees).

Following the directions of Oudolf and van der Kloet for the quantity of different bulbs in each area, volunteers put the total amount in a container and mixed everything together. In the area cited above, for example, 600 winter aconites were tossed with 100 narcissus and 100 dog-tooth violets. Volunteers then casually threw the resulting mixture among the hardy geraniums and planted each bulb in the exact spot where it landed.

Mr. Oudolf, Ms. van der Kloet, and Frans Roozen of the IFBC also pitched in so the press photographers could record the event. Thankfully, we press people were not asked to get low down and dirty and join in the planting.



Bulbs

Left: ***Allium cowanii***

Below: ***Narcissus*** **'Peeping Tom', *Erythronium* 'White Beauty' and *Geranium* 'Claridge Druce'**

Bottom: **Daffodils with an underplanting of violet hyacinths.**

Rob Cardillo





PLANTING TIMES & DEPTH

While the three Dutch people were kneeling in the dirt with their noses turning a bluish red from the blustery breezes swooshing in from the nearby water, I asked them about planting timing and depth. Roozen assured me that bulbs can be planted until the ground freezes, which means well into December in the *Green Scene* area.

And then there is depth. The soil in the courtyard where my husband and I have recently moved in Princeton, NJ, has the consistency of cement, leading to a "shallower is better" attitude on my part. "Wrong," said Roozen. The standard wisdom is to plant a bulb at a depth of three times its height. I pleaded with him to say that a wee bit shallower might be okay, but he was adamant. Not only that, he added that even deeper than three times a bulb height would be fine.

Unknowingly, van der Kloet came to my rescue. For in choosing the bulbs for the park, she specified many of what were once referred to as "minor bulbs" but which are now called "special bulbs" to give them greater pizzazz. These bulbs tend to be smaller and do not need to be planted so deep. "I love these bulbs," she said. "While not as flashy as tulips or daffodils, they add a soft charm—and often fragrance—to garden borders."

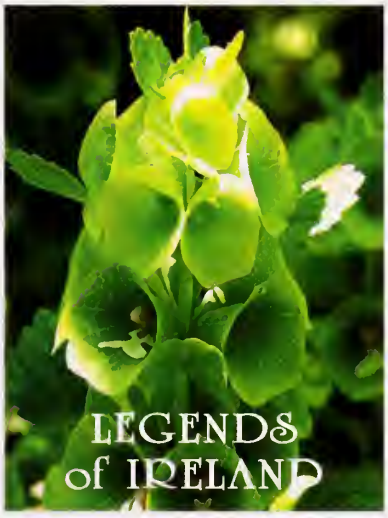
Many of these minor bulbs are also heirlooms, bulbs that were introduced to cultivation generations ago and yet have somehow never widely caught on with gardeners. Three deserve special mention. In alphabetical order, they are:

Allium cowanii. Known as the bride's onion in Europe, this wonderful plant is unusual among alliums in that its flowers are sweetly fragrant rather than onion-scented. The blossoms are a sparkling white and open for a good three weeks during the height of the marriage season in May.

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THE BATTERY BOSQUE





Above: **Artist renderings of the completed landscape.**

Gladiolus communis byzantinus. This hardy "glad"—it need not be dug up out of the ground when winter comes—was first introduced into gardens in 1700, and then, for reasons unknown, disappeared from view. Heritage plant enthusiasts and those wanting easy-care plants have created a new groundswell of approval for this late-spring beauty, which is decked out with spires of deep wine-pink flowers that are lovely in both borders and arrangements.

Scilla mischtschenkoana. This late-winter charmer has one of the most unfortunate botanical names I have ever come across. Just try and pronounce the species name. And because it is so little recognized, it has yet to acquire a common, popular name. I have grown it for years and love its warm green foliage, which often emerges in early February, and the delicate light blue flowers with a darker blue stripe down each petal that follow soon afterwards.

RARER BULBS

In addition to heritage bulbs, the Dutch designers also chose several that are, to my knowledge, unknown to American gardeners. "Our feeling was," van der Kloet explained, "that once visitors to the Bosque saw them, they might want to add them to their own borders. And in demanding these really lovely flowers, they will encourage more sellers to offer them." These are:

Corydalis decipiens. Similar to the popular *C. solida*, this corydalis bears spring flowers that are a deeper reddish purple and bloom for a much longer period.

Crocus pulchellus 'Zephyr'. This fall-blooming crocus features lightly fragrant, bluish-white flowers.

Ornithogalum narbonense. When I visited the park again this past June, this plant's 3-foot-plus spikes were bursting with white flowers in a bright shade area.

These three are definitely candidates for my gardens, and I hope that van der Kloet is right in her assumption that they will soon be more widely offered. (While Fraser's Thimble Farms (*www.thimble-farms.com*), a mail-order firm based in Vancouver, Canada, does offer the Corydalis and the Ornithogalum, there is a $50 minimum plus a fee for sending the plants into the U.S. I have purchased bulbs satisfactorily from this company before.)

WORTH THE TRIP

In any case, whether scouting new bulbs and perennials, looking for new garden design ideas, or seeking just plain serene, restful beauty, check out the Battery Bosque—preferably in balmier weather—on your next visit to Manhattan. "I hope everyone enjoys the result as much as Jacqueline and I enjoyed planning it," says Oudolf.

SOURCES

McClure & Zimmerman
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John Scheepers
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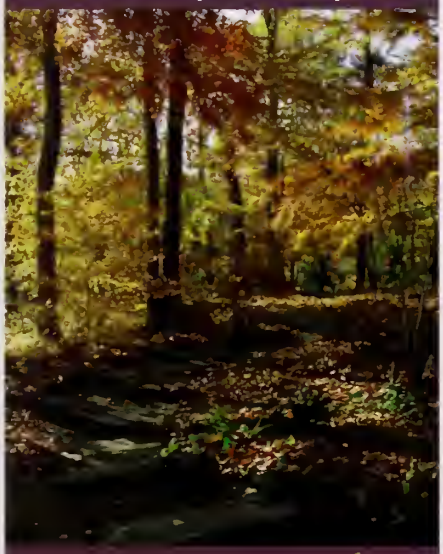
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FANTASTIC



VINES for the Delaware Valley



Story by
Andrew Bunting

Photography by
Rhoda Mauer

Sometimes just the mention of vines conjures up images of forests covered in kudzu or an old estate where a wisteria has consumed an arbor or trellis. There is no arguing that some of the worst thugs in our home gardens are vines, or that many of our most pernicious weeds like bindweed, mile-a-minute, and bittersweet are vines, too. But there are many fantastic ornamental vines worth considering for the home garden. Vines fill many niches in gardens. Some are self-clinging and able to climb without support on brick and stone facades and even trees. Others need a little help from a fence or trellis. Many vines are very adaptable, growing in sun or shade and tolerating various soil types.

While no single article can cover all the outstanding vines that thrive in our area, I will highlight some new and underused vines with a myriad of ornamental attributes.

Many books have been written on the queen of climbers, the clematis. At the Scott Arboretum we have begun collecting species clematis native to the southeastern and southern United States. One of our favorites is a Texas native, *Clematis texensis.* Like other native American clematis, the flowers have a pendant "urn" shape that looks as if it has been carved out of wax. In June and July the wiry, twining stems are covered with striking red flowers. Unlike other clematis, it is not very vigorous, growing only 6 feet in a season. We have positioned it to grow up through the steely-blue foliage of a blue Atlas cedar, *Cedrus atlantica,* whose foliage provides a living trellis and contrasts nicely with the Texas clematis flowers.

One of the best self-clinging vines is the climbing hydrangea, especially the popular *Hydrangea petiolaris.* This beautiful vine attaches itself with tiny rootlets along the stem and requires a sturdy structure for vertical growth. The branches reach up to 3 feet away from the main attaching stems. In July it is adorned with four-part, sweetly fragrant flowers, and in fall the foliage turns a nice butter yellow. Recently, Chanticleer horticulturist Dan Benarcik found a green and yellow variegated sport at his former row house in Wilmington, Delaware, and named it 'Firefly'. 'Firefly' has been propagated by a wholesale nursery and should be available next year.

Closely allied to the climbing hydrangeas are the schizophragmas, also known as the Japanese hydrangea vine. A past winner of the PHS Gold Medal Award, *Schizophragma hydrangeoides* 'Moonlight' is one of my favorite vines. The heart-shaped foliage has distinct silver veins overlaid on dark green leaves—a coloration particularly effective in shade. In June and July, large flat-topped hydrangea-like flowers appear. A large single floret makes up the showy part of the flower. From a distance it appears as if the florets are floating above the foliage. For the last decade we have been trialing many different *Schizophragma* at the Scott Arborettum, and two standouts are *Schizophragma hydrangeoides* ssp. *quelpartensis* and *S. integrifolium.*

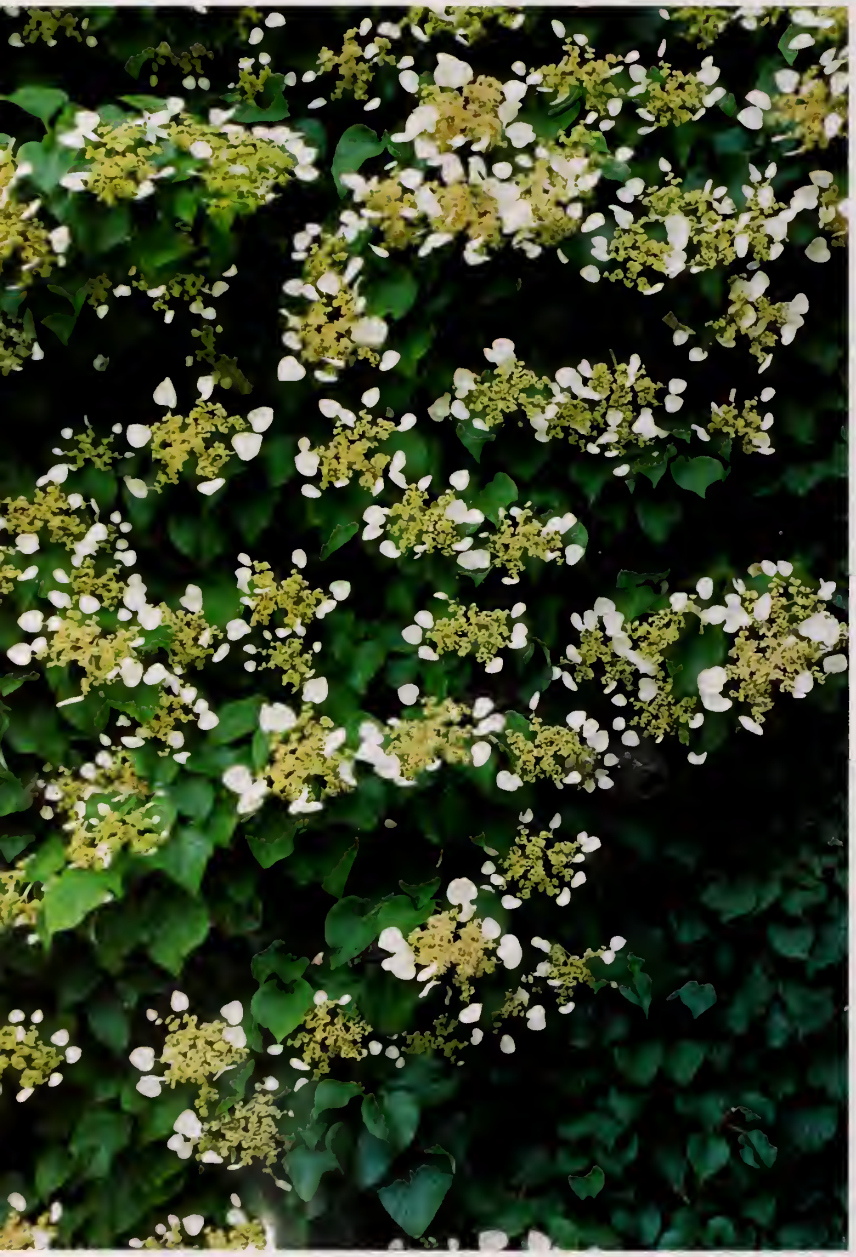
Schizophragama hydrangeoides f. *quelpartensis* has flowers similar to the more common Japanese hydrangea vine. The leaf differs in that it is more serrated along the margin of the leaf, creating a nice textural effect. *S. integrifolium* has a large solitary floral bract like *S. hydrangeoides,* but it is more elongated. The species is often seen in English gardens.

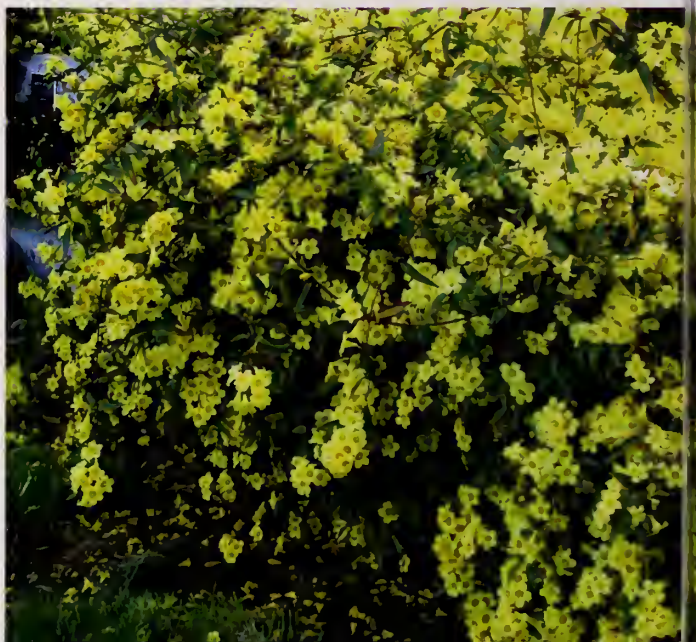
At the Arboretum, both Chinese wisteria, *Wisteria sinensis,* and the Japanese wisteria, *Wisteria floribunda,* are seeding into our native woods surrounding the campus. Therefore, we decided to stop planting or promoting these species and their cultivars, and to focus on native species instead. We grow the Kentucky wisteria (*Wisteria macrostachya*) and the American wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*). While the Asian species have long panicles of flowers that hang downward, a local selection from Longwood

Left: ***Campsis grandiflora* 'Morning Calm'**









Gardens, *Wisteria frutescens* 'Longwood Purple', has shorter, stout clusters of flowers that sit atop the foliage. At home I grow this wisteria on a rustic fence, and it is covered with smoky purple flowers in May. Less vigorous than the Asian species, it requires less pruning and containment.

Growing on the north side of my house in combination with *Schizophragma hydrangeoides* 'Moonlight' is a Boston ivy, *Parthenocissus tricuspidata* 'Fenway Park', another self-clinging vine. This fast-growing vine has broad, three-pointed leaves that emerge bright chartreuse yellow in the spring. It can really brighten a shady spot and makes a striking backdrop for shrubs and perennials planted in the foreground. Two years ago, I needed some work done on my house, so I cut the 'Fenway Park' to the ground. The next spring it grew all the way back up to the top of the second floor. If it gets out of control, you can simply prune away what you don't want and pull it off your house without damaging the mortar.

Most vines flower in late spring and into summer, but a few bloom in April. The Carolina jessamine or Confederate jasmine, *Gelsemium semperivens* 'Margarita', is a spring-flowering Gold Medal winner. In early April, this semi-evergreen vine is absolutely covered in 2-inch-long, bright yellow tubular flowers. In the South, where it is native, it is often seen along the I-95 corridor flowering along the edges of woods and on roadside fences. As a twining vine, it does need a trellis or other support.

It is an exciting time in horticulture, and there are dozens of wonderful vines for the home gardener to try. These vines discussed here are merely the "tip of the iceberg."

Andrew Bunting is curator at the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College.



Opposite page, clockwise from top left: ***Clematis texensis***

***Wisteria frutescens* 'Longwood Purple'**

***Gelsemium semperivens* 'Margarita'**

Schizophragma hydrangeoides

Right: ***Parthenocissus tricuspidata* (left) with Japanese hydrangea vine (right).**

Tending the URBAN FOREST

PHS HARNESSES THE POWER OF TREES THROUGHOUT THE REGION



By Jane Carroll

Trees provide shade and beauty, yet they also do much more. A single tree on your property can increase the value of your home and help keep it cool. A neighborhood filled with hundreds of trees is a more desirable place to live, and a tree-lined shopping district feels more pleasant and earns higher profits than a barren strip mall. Plant a thousand trees and you begin to see benefits on a broader scale. Trees clean the air, reduce flooding, and improve water quality.

PHS has been promoting the benefits of trees since the late 1970s, beginning with Philadelphia Green's first street tree planting program. Its "Tree Tenders" project was created in 1993 to train Philadelphia residents to plant and care for street trees. Offered in partnership with Penn State Cooperative Extension, the nine-hour Tree Tenders course teaches general tree-care skills to organized groups and individuals. By working together to plant trees and improve their neighborhoods, these committed volunteers are building stronger communities.

A REGIONAL ISSUE

In Philadelphia, trees make the dense urban landscape more livable. But as development devours more and more open space outside the city, the loss of trees erodes the quality of life for millions of people and hurts the entire region's economy. (Fewer trees means more polluted air, resulting in higher healthcare and environmental remediation costs.) A 2003 study by the nonprofit organization American Forests (*www.americanforests.org*) found that the five-county Greater Philadelphia Region, including Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties, has lost eight percent of its tree cover—the area shaded by trees—in the past 15 years.

In 2004 the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) responded to this crisis by creating TreeVitalize, a four-year, $8 million public-private partnership that aims to plant 20,000 trees in the region and promote the benefits of trees.

Partnership and citizen involvement are crucial aspects of TreeVitalize, and PHS is a

TreeVitalize accomplishments to date

- **More than 7,000 trees planted**
- **104 acres of riparian buffer zones restored**
- **1,400 citizens received PHS Tree Tender training**
- **1,700 people have volunteered to plant trees**







TreeVitalize
A partnership to restore tree cover in Southeast PA

Last fall, fourth grade students at the Reynolds Elementary School received lessons in tree care and helped mulch 12 newly planted cherry trees in their Brewerytown neighborhood. (Trees currently shade just two percent of Brewerytown.) They were joined by DCNR secretary Mike DiBerardinis (left) and Pennsylvania congressman Dwight Evans.

leading participant. DCNR secretary Michael DiBerardinis says there was a strong interest on the part of many organizations to do something about the problem of tree loss. "Scores of local and county governments, community groups, foundations, nonprofits, and businesses are driving the initiative forward," he says. "It is inspiring and hopeful to me."

TreeVitalize has three main components. First, it is working to plant shade trees in cities and towns where tree cover is below 25 percent. Second, it works with regional organizations on "riparian buffer projects" to replace trees near rivers and streams.

The third component is an effort to train 2,000 citizen volunteers who will plant and care for trees. Drawing on its extensive work with communities through Philadelphia Green, PHS is spearheading this effort. "By becoming part of the TreeVitalize partnership, Philadelphia Green can reach out to more communities and promote the value of trees on a regional level in a way that we would not be able to on our own," says Philadelphia Green director Maitreyi Roy.

BRANCHING OUT

As part of TreeVitalize, PHS has expanded its Tree Tenders training to communities beyond the city. Each spring and fall the course is offered in the city and in two other municipalities.

"Until now, we've focused on Philadelphia, and we weren't sure what the response would be outside the city," says Tree Tenders manager Mindy Maslin. "It's been better than we had hoped. We've had 80 to 100 people sign up for each class, and local governments have been very welcoming."

PHS has launched a Citizens Campaign to encourage southeastern Pennsylvania homeowners to plant trees on their properties. It includes "Tree Jamboree" events where people can learn about the benefits of trees, get a planting lesson, and pick up coupons for rebates on tree purchases. Tapping its broad membership base, PHS holds a TreeVitalize tree sale at its annual Members' Day event each fall and includes special displays at the Philadelphia Flower Show.



"We're using the trees to connect all kinds of issues in our neighborhood. It's a fantastic way of bringing people together."

—Geoff DiMasi, Vice President, Passyunk Square Civic Association

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TAKING ROOT IN NEIGHBORHOODS

Through TreeVitalize, PHS is also working with residents, neighborhood groups, the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, and the city's Fairmount Park Commission to plant more trees in Philadelphia neighborhoods and parks. PHS organizes planting events, works with community groups, facilitates partnerships, and provides oversight.

To receive trees, neighborhood organizations must submit applications and contribute in-kind resources such as labor and community outreach. "We couldn't do this without these motivated volunteers," says TreeVitalize project director Patrice Carroll.

In the Passyunk Square neighborhood in South Philadelphia, new trees have brought big changes—and not just in the neighborhood's appearance. Geoff DiMasi, vice president of the Passyunk Square Civic Association, says his group's involvement in TreeVitalize has been "transforming." The group has planted hundreds of trees through the program and has strengthened the community in the process.

"All of our tree plantings are volunteer projects," says DiMasi. "We have people lined up to plant the trees—at one planting we had 200 people. The neighbors get to know each other at the plantings. Then the people who get the trees in front of their houses end up spending more time outside, so they talk to their neighbors more. I've seen senior citizens cry, they were so happy to have a tree."

The Civic Association's first project was to plant 43 trees around the Capitolo Playground, a project that brought about better communication between park employees and residents. The group then forged closer ties with the police district by dedicating a group of trees to local officers.

"We're using the trees to connect all kinds of issues in our neighborhood," says DiMasi. "It's a fantastic way of bringing people together."

CARING FOR TREES

Planting trees is just the first step in restoring a healthy urban forest. Densely populated areas present trees with special challenges like polluted air, tight spaces, and injuries from cars. Keeping the trees alive and thriving is a big concern for everyone involved.

TreeVitalize trees are procured by the Morris Arboretum. Arboretum experts identify species of trees that tolerate urban conditions and work with nurseries to make them available. The Arboretum will also conduct a follow-up study to see how well the trees survive after planting.

THE BIG PICTURE

PHS has begun working with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, and Penn State Cooperative Extension to educate municipal managers, decision makers, and elected officials throughout the region about the value of trees.

"Our goal is not simply to get trees in the ground," explains TreeVitalize's Patrice Carroll. "The larger goal is to encourage stewardship of our natural resources through education and awareness."

Adds DiBerardinis, "When we engage citizens and connect them to this important work, we are not only ensuring the survival of a tree, but we're building a constituency and creating advocates of our environment for the future."

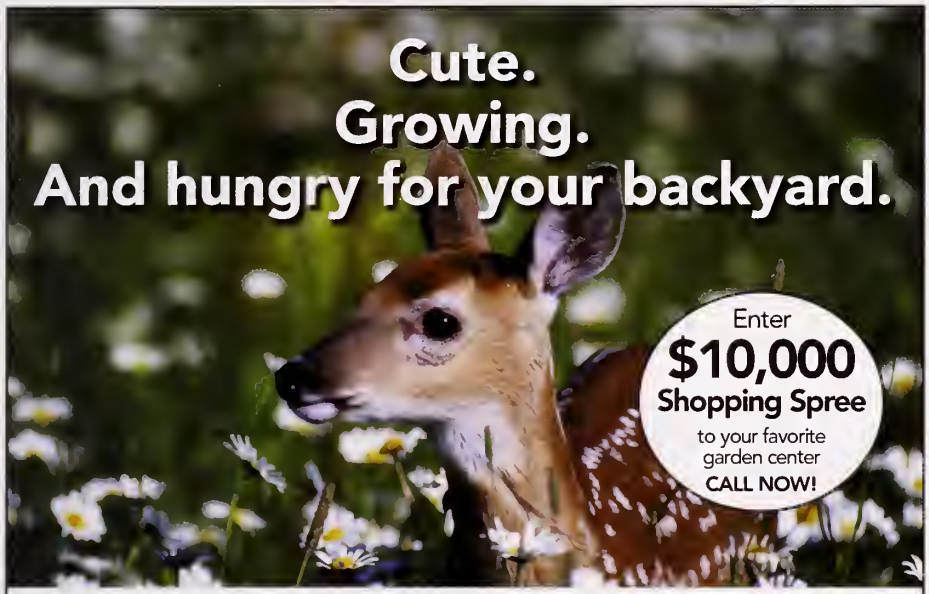


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Memoirs of the American Philosophical Society
Vol. 257 ISBN: 978-0-87169-257-3 $100.00

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David W. Maxey

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By Jane Godshalk

Supermarket Magic

Bring the beauty of nature indoors where you can enjoy it throughout the day and evening. Here's how to make a simple bouquet with flowers easily obtained from your garden, florist, or local supermarket.

YOU WILL NEED:

- A glass or other water-tight container. Here you see a 6-inch round glass bowl.
- Floral scissors or knife and clippers for heavier branches.
- Fresh water and possibly a teaspoon of bleach.
- A half dozen slender, pliable branches 2 to 3 feet long (Good choices include willow, grapevine—fresh or cut from a wreath—and red twig dogwood.)
- A variety of flowers from your garden* or a market bouquet from a reliable grocer. (Note: many grocers and food markets carry excellent flowers, but it is a good idea to check what day the store gets its flowers from the wholesaler to ensure freshness.)
- A few stems with leaves from your garden. Azalea, acuba, rhododendron, hellebores or any seasonal green will do.



Another variation: **This 8-inch square vase gets its structure from branches of red twig dogwood (still green). Flowers from this market bouquet include sunflowers, asclepius, amaranthus, and globe thistle.**

STEP BY STEP:

STEP 1: **Carefully rinse out the vase to remove any stray materials and then fill it with clean, cool water.**

STEP 2: **Organize branches, foliage, and flowers. Strip leaves from flower stems.**

STEP 3: **Gently bend a few branches so they fit into the bowl or vase, creating a structure that has relatively even spaces between branches. This will be your support system for the flowers and foliage.**

STEP 4: **Cut your foliage stems to a length that complements your container (about twice the height of the vase).**

STEP 5: **Place your foliage over the rim of the container. Make three evenly spaced groups of foliage with each group about the same size and length.**

STEP 6: **Cut your flowers to about twice the vase height and place them into your arrangement, paying attention to color, size and shape—larger and darker flowers go first, then smaller and more delicate flowers follow. Save a few tall feathery stems to finish the design.**

STEP 7: **Add a few small stems of the same branches in your structure in the vase to give the impression of being connected.**

STEP 8: **Carefully add a teaspoon of bleach to the finished design to preserve the flowers and keep the water from discoloring.**

**Flowers from your garden should be picked in early morning or evening to give them the longest life. Place them immediately in water.*

Jane Godshalk is a gardener and passionate flower arranger. The beauty of nature, its colors and textures, inspire her. She has studied floral design in the US and in Europe and teaches floral design at Longwood Gardens.















A. **Flowers, tools and other materials that are required.**

B. **The cut flowers spread out.**

C. **Creating the "support system."**

D. **The stems in this photo are cranberry viburnum (*Viburnum opulus*).**

E. **The first layer of foliage.**

F. **Adding more plant material to fill out design.**

G. **The finished arrangement.**



By Ray Rogers

Potting Up

Over the years I have won my share of ribbons at the Philadelphia Flower Show, and in this new column I'll be showing you how I do it. Will I give away my secrets? Maybe. Each column will concentrate on one group of plants, but I'll keep you posted on the progress of others. Along the way I hope you'll pick up some tips on how to grow your own prize-winning plants.

I start getting excited about the next Flower Show in October, as I pot up my daffodils to prepare them for their winter activity. You may wonder why I chose the word "activity," instead of "dormancy" or "slumber," thinking that winter is a quiet time for daffodils in the garden. As it turns out, winter is a time of extensive root development as well as below-ground growth of the flowering shoots.

Here's a brief review of my potting procedure, which has been adapted and refined over the last 17 years: First, I assemble all of the necessary materials: clean, healthy bulbs; 6- and 10-inch clay azalea pots; small pieces of window screening; a coarse, open potting mix containing lots of bark and/or coir and some perlite; plastic labels; and a pencil. You may wonder if the pots need to be brand new and perfectly clean, and to that I respond with a definite "nope." I've been re-using some pots for several years now, just giving them an annual cursory scrub with plain water. Heavy-duty cleaning and other operations can come later if necessary.

After covering the drainage hole with screening, I place some potting mix in the pot and press it down firmly enough to settle it in. Then comes the game of adjusting the level so that enough mix sits below the bulbs for them to root nicely but not so much that the bulbs end up sitting too high in the pot. Since I always arrange large daffodil bulbs in two layers, I do a test run with a few bulbs sitting on the mix and then place another bulb on their "shoulders." If about half of the top bulb appears above the rim of the pot, then I'm good to go with filling the pot. Pushing in a label (bearing the cultivar name and sometimes other information, such as number of bulbs) finishes the job.

Once the bulbs are settled into their pots, I place them in the large open space under my front porch. While many exhibitors' pots spend their time in covered cold frames and filled trenches, mine are essentially out in the cold open air. This allows me to check them for watering needs and developing problems, but it also means I must periodically walk around hunched over in that cold and dimly lit space from October until February, when the pots come out of storage on a staggered schedule. Once in the greenhouses, the daffodils grow rapidly and bloom beautifully, and then—*hopefully*—they will win ribbons at the Show.

I'll keep you posted on the progress of the daf-





Far left: **Two layers of daffodil bulbs sit at their correct levels in a pot.**

Left: **The author's rosette-winning pot of *Narcissus* 'Chromacolor' at the 2006 show**

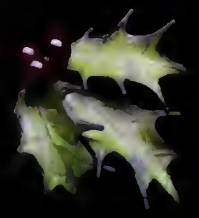
fodils in later columns. In the meantime, here's what's happening with my other potential Show entries:

My amaryllis (*Hippeastrum* cvs.), the ones that can produce scores of flowers for the Show, are going dormant and look bedraggled. My cacti and other succulents are either approaching full dormancy (cacti and deciduous succulents) or are revving up after semi-dormancy (*Haworthia, Gasteria,* and *Aloe*). My hardy herbaceous perennial and woody plants are in a deep slumber or nearly so. My geraniums (*Pelargonium* sp.) are beginning their active winter growth period after being semi-dormant since May.

So, stay tuned for more pre-Flower Show action in greenhouses...and elsewhere!

2007 will be Ray Rogers' 18th year of entering plants at the Philadelphia Flower Show. He plans to enter a few pots of daffodils.

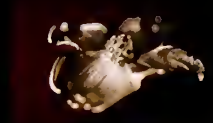
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PHS WELCOMES WANGARI MAATHAI

This month Philadelphia will welcome a renowned leader in the global greening effort, Professor Wangari Maathai. The 2004 Nobel Peace Prize recipient will serve as the keynote speaker for the *Growing Greener Cities* symposium, held at the University of Pennsylvania campus from October 15 through 17 (co-sponsored by PHS, The Penn Institute for Urban Research, and the Media & Policy Center Foundation).

Inspired by the PBS series "Edens Lost & Found," this event is designed to explore complex urban environmental issues of the 21st century. And who better to headline the proceedings than a woman who has revolutionized grassroots environmentalism?

Wangari Maathai began the Green Belt Movement in Kenya in 1977 in response to the depletion of her country's forests. She envisioned a society of people who consciously work for the continued environmental betterment of Kenya through conservation, community development, and capacity building. It wasn't long before tree planting arose as a central component to actualizing these ideals, and now nine districts throughout the country have adopted such practices.



Below: **Members of the Green Belt Movement.**



"In Kenya, few forests are left. My response was to begin planting trees to help heal the land and break the cycle of poverty. Trees stop soil erosion, leading to water conservation and increased rainfall. Trees provide fuel, material for building and fencing, fruits, fodder, shade and beauty," Maathai says.

The effort has been divided into two phases, each an inspiring success. The first targeted tree planting on private lands, including schools, churches, and farms. The second, aimed at public spaces, gets trees planted in parks and by roadways, and helps restore forests. Recently an emphasis has been placed on indigenous trees to preserve local biodiversity. "The planting of trees is the planting of ideas," she says. "By starting with the simple step of digging a hole and planting a tree, we plant hope for ourselves and for future generations. Our message has spread faster and farther than we could have imagined."

Her conviction proved contagious, and the subsequent Green Belt Movement International allowed Maathai's message to reach a global audience, empowering individuals worldwide to protect the environment and promote good governance and cultures of peace.

Maathai's message will reach a new audience as part of the *Growing Greener Cities* symposium. Representatives from each of the four cities spotlighted in "Edens Lost & Found" will be on hand to share their insights. Other invited guests include leaders in the municipal, nonprofit, and academic sectors of greening. By assembling some of the most forward-thinking experts on the subject, PHS hopes to foster a dynamic discussion on the future of urban environmentalism.

"In the world, there is a new collective force of people mobilizing around the issue of peace, but linking it to the need to protect the environment," Professor Maathai says. "Nature is not an amenity to be drawn upon. It is a fundamental component of our ability to survive."

Wangari Maathai will speak from 7 to 8 pm on October 16 at Irvine Auditorium, 3401 Spruce Street, Philadelphia. This event is free, but online pre-registration is required at: *www.upenn.edu/penniur/maathai.htm*. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.



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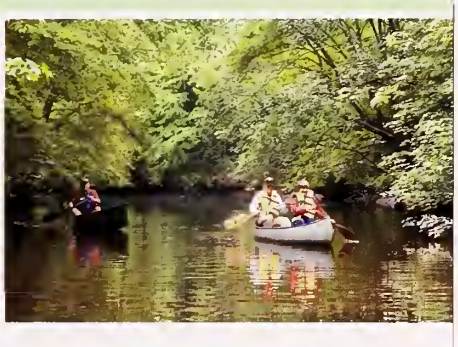
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